

Crochet Nativity
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Let's

ISSUE 98 XMAS 2015

knit

THE UK'S BESTSELLING KNIT MAG

It's Christmas!

45+ *Festive patterns*

- ★ Quick decorations
- ★ Easy two-ball knits
- ★ Cosy baby projects

Quick & Fun Weekend Knit



STASH-BUSTING DESIGNS



Gifts for all the family

10 SIMPLE MAKES TO KNIT & SHARE



Little helpers!

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THE MINI ELF TWINS**



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XMAS HOME SPECIAL



READ THIS!

KNITTING FOR LOVED ONES
HANDY HOW-TO GUIDE

SHIMMER & SHINE
8 OF THE BEST SPARKLY YARNS

BRITISH KNITTING AWARDS
THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Christmas is coming

We've got you covered

Snuggle up with our new collection
at loveknitting.com/winter

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Yarn, Needles, Buttons, Books, Patterns, Kits and Accessories

welcome to *Let's* knit

Meet the team...



DEPUTY EDITOR
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This month...

I've been embracing all things festive by sourcing fabulous patterns for your bonus booklet, and making a list (twice checked, of course) of top tips to ensure your gift knitting goes without a hitch (p42)!

My favourite project...

Silent Night, p81



EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
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This month...

I've been gathering together some bumper giveaways (p78) and talking to Mitsuki Hoshi about her cute amigurumi characters (p98)

My favourite project...

Buddy & Belle, p16



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This month...

I've been embracing the festive spirit with Christmas stash staples (p58)

My favourite project...

Little Piggy, p40

Need to get in touch?

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letsknit@servicehelpline.co.uk



Christmas is well and truly on the way, and as we all know, it's best to start your **gift knitting** as early as you possibly can. We've got ideas for all the family in this issue: the littlest members would be delighted with Zoë Halstead's **adorable elf twins**, Buddy and Belle, on page 16, or Jane Burns' **piggy hat** on page 40; there are

makes for young fashionistas, such as Kelly Menzies' **headband** (p47) and Helen Ardley's **colourful cowl** (p21); timeless accessories from Clare Devine (p60) and Siân Brown, and for him a **stylish sleeveless jumper** from Rowan designer Lisa Richardson (p63). And, of course, we've got three wonderful Christmas jumpers in sizes ranging from 9-10 year old kids to XXL man's sizes, plus heaps more gift knits in our packed **bonus booklet**. Add to that our quick Christmas decorations (p69) and our fabulous ideas for creating a **festive home** which start on page 30, and there's enough to keep you knitting solidly between now and the big day!

Thousands of you voted in the 2015 **British Knitting Awards** and at last we can reveal the final results – from best independent store to best overall yarn, and everything in between. The delighted **winner's comments** are a treat to read, and you'll find them on page 28.

Happy knitting!

Sarah

sarah.neal@aceville.co.uk



Heidifeathers
spinning starter kit



Our inspiring display of festive homewares on page 30 includes four exclusive patterns to bring cheer to your home



Crochet fans can get started on our easy two-part nativity – find it on page 81



Guaranteed to bring a smile to every face on Christmas morning, these jumpers can be found in our bonus booklet

JOIN @LETSKNITMAG ON



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DISCLAIMER: We recommend that readers use the main specified yarn for every project as this will produce the best results. The alternatives given are suggestions only, and as no two yarns are exactly the same we advise readers to swatch an alternative yarn carefully before choosing to use it for their project. The publishers are not responsible for any safety issues arising from any items knitted from patterns contained within Let's Knit magazine. Prices are all correct at time of print.

Let's knit

CHRISTMAS 2015 CONTENTS



16



81



40



24



47

Who cares? ...We do!

At **Let's Knit** we understand that nothing is more annoying than errors in knitting patterns. As part of our total commitment to ensuring that your experience of our magazine is as enjoyable as possible, we're proud to offer **THE LET'S KNIT PATTERN PROMISE:**

- Exclusive patterns featured in Let's Knit have been professionally checked and reproduced with the utmost care. Updates can be found at www.letsknit.co.uk
- Should you encounter any problems we are more than happy to provide support and assistance. Contact us and we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

By email: support@letsknit.co.uk

By telephone: 01206 508622 (office hours only)

By post: at the address on page 95 (please mark your envelope 'Support')

(Please note we cannot offer assistance with patterns not published in Let's Knit)



55

PATTERNS

13 Mulled Wine

A semi-fitted stylish festive sweater with a lace pattern

16 Buddy & Belle

Meet our little elf friends, children of Bernard and Bernardette

21 Merry & Bright

A geometric print cowl in pink tones by Helen Ardley

24 Striking Textured Sweater

Penny Hill's fashion forward houndstooth knit

32 Home for Christmas

Embrace the festive spirit in your home with a collection of gorgeous makes

40 Little Piglet

An adorable piggy-inspired toddler hat by Jane Burns

44 Easy Elegance

A simple lace scarf pattern by Sian Brown to ease you into the style

47 Heads-Up

Kelly Menzies' headband combines style with festive cheer

55 Stripe Central

A casual boyfriend-style cardigan using colourwork

60 One Skein Hat

An autumnal textured beanie with pompom trim

63 Nordic Adventure

A charming v-neck men's vest in Rowan Hemp Tweed

69 Happy Holidays

Quick festive knits for you to try as the season approaches

81 Silent Night

Crochet your own Mary and Joseph figures by Liz Ward

85 Clematis Petals

A classic v-neck pullover for baby by Camilla Miller

SHOPPING

22 Gifts for Knitters

Your shopping list all wrapped up!



85



44



60



WIN!
OVER £3,362
WORTH OF
PRIZES ON
P78

69



63



21



OFFICIAL
**Let's
Knit**
KIT

Craft your
own Santa
filled with
festive cheer
from our
bonus
yarn kit!



58 Festive Stash Staples

All the yarns you'll need for a knitted Christmas

75 Shining Silver

Inject some razzle dazzle into your stash with these glittery yarns

76 What's In Store

Get the hot gossip from our favourite shops around the UK

FOCUS

8 Let's Knit Loves

Catch up with the latest news and gossip from the knitting universe

28 British Knitting Awards

The results are in! See who has won this year's awards

30 Home for Christmas

Inspire a festive home this year with our very own Christmas decorations

42 Top Tips for a Stress Free Christmas

Gift Knitting Do's and Don'ts

to help you through the festive season

89 Knit School

Learn how to correct mistakes with Adrienne Chandler

PEOPLE

50 Stop & Share

Catch up with the LK community

98 Last Word

We chat to Mitsuki Hoshi, author of *The Night Before Christmas* and renowned amigurumist

IN EVERY ISSUE...

- 3 Welcome
- 7 This Month's Free Gift
- 10 Christmas is the Season
- 36 Subscriptions
- 49 Coming Next Month
- 52 Tea Break
- 67 Bookshelf
- 78 Bumper Giveaways
- 92 Practical Guides
- 94 Step By Step

13



**OUR
COVER
STAR!**

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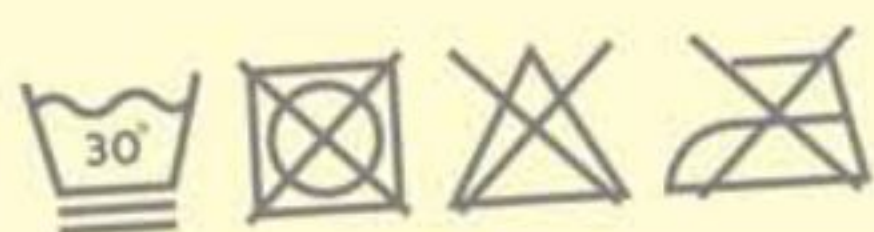
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Your BONUS KIT

Make & Share

We love seeing what you've made with our bonus kits. Share your photos with us on Facebook and Twitter, or email support@letsknit.co.uk



Last month you loved knitting Lynne Rowe's gorgeous Princess Fifi!



Amanda Deacon



Bethan Wheeler



Lianne Taylor



Sarah Spring

FEELING FESTIVE?

We're full of the joys of the season here at LK HQ and are thrilled to bring you 20 pages of Christmas cheer – and plenty of patterns too! There are novelty jumpers for all the family, plus easy toys, adorable baby knits and chic makes for the home – all of which would make brilliant gifts for the big day. Start knitting tonight!



Jolly Santa bootees



Cute bouclé snowman



Mini jumper decs - two designs!



Let's
knit
Best for
gifts!



We're giving you four balls of yarn plus stuffing – find the pattern in your extra Christmas knits booklet!

Knit Lynne Rowe's Santa with your yarn kit!



Four more
fab and easy
patterns
for your
yarn kit!



Let's be honest, Britain has a reputation for being rather wet – which simply means you have a reason to get decked out in sensational wet-weather style. Hello pretty umbrella from Herdy! It comes in six different bursts of colour and the quality is spot on. Be sensible and treat yourself for £19.95 from 01539 739202, www.herdy.co.uk

Let's knit LOVES...

OUR ROUND-UP OF WHAT'S HOT
IN THE KNITTING UNIVERSE



Mistakes made easy

These nifty little tools by Clover are a life saver! They may look simple but they are the answer to dropped stitches, mistakes and perfecting your work. In 3.5mm and 4.5mm sizes, we think they are a new essential! RRP £6.35 from 01453 883581, clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk

FROSTY FRIENDS

Knitted in Sirdar's new Ophelia yarn, these cute little Antarctic characters will fill you with festive delight. They would make perfect gifts or decorations for around the house and better yet, you can get the kit to make them for just £24.99 from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk



Mister robin

Linda Whaley's robin beanie and matching mitten patterns from the Little Pickle Knits collection are just the ticket for small people, from newborn up to five years. Each pattern costs £3 from www.lindawhaley.co.uk





SHINE ON

Introducing the new height of luxury from Rowan, the delectable SHINE! Each delicate little ball is made from three strands of Kidsilk Haze, a mercerised cotton and a hundred little Swarovski crystals delicately threaded throughout. With beautifully designed supporting patterns, each individually packaged ball has an RRP of £16 from

01484 681881, www.knitrowan.com

A LITTLE LUXURY

Nothing is more thoughtful than a hand knitted heirloom for baby's first Christmas. UK Alpaca's silk and alpaca blend has just been launched in delightful new pastel shades and comes in DK and 4ply weights with new supporting patterns. The fleece is hand granded at the farm in Devon and comes solely from British alpacas. Retailing at £9.30 for a 50g ball of light-as-a-cloud heaven, it's a baby knit must! 01884 243579, www.ukalpaca.com

Did you
know?

*Sheep don't just give us
wool. Roquefort cheese
and some feta's are
made from sheep's
milk!*



CHARITY WE LOVE...

Truro Wool Poppy Appeal

It's almost that time of year when the streets are filled with poppy-adorned lapels and this year they're getting a yarny makeover. After receiving countless requests for poppy patterns last year, Julie at Truro Wool decided to design her own in support of the British Legion (registered charity number 219279). The idea further blossomed within her weekly knitting and crochet group into making poppy kits. Each kit contains a knitting or crochet pattern, 25g of yarn, two buttons and two brooch backs so all you'll need is a hook or needles to make your very own. £1 from each kit will be donated to the Poppy Appeal and come November, Julie and her crafty pals are hoping to see the streets of Cornwall filled with knitted blooms! Kits can be purchased from Truro Wool at 2 St Mary's St Mews, Truro, TR1 2BE or Cornish Market World, St Austell, PL25 3RP, by phone on 01872 270661 or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/TruroWool



Partners in yarn

Have you got your tickets for the Knitting & Stitching show yet? We'll be there with our yarny friends Deramores on stand L31 Call 01473 321872 or visit www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com/london to get your tickets!

WRAP HAPPY

Put a knitty spin on your Christmas wrapping this festive season with these brilliant tags from Ginger Ray. Each pack contains 12 tags in four different designs with a greeting on the reverse. For £2.99 per pack, that's Christmas wrapping ticked off the list. 0845 6802975, www.gingerray.co.uk



ELEKTRIC LOVE

Earlier this year, we fell in love with the edgy new Conway + Bliss range by Debbie Bliss and now our dream has come true. Introducing the first yarn in the range, Elektra! The 44% wool, 44% polyamide, 12% acrylic blend comes in 12 vibrant shades for edgy patterns.

01535 664222, www.designeryarns.uk.com





This Month's TOP BUY

Send some cheer to your loved ones this Yuletide with these handmade, sheep-themed cards from Vanessa Bee Designs! With their charming designs and classic sheepy puns, there are ten cards in the range, all featuring our favourite fibre friends (and a cheeky reindeer, too!) enjoying a range of Christmas festivities. The use of real sheep's wool adds a tactile element to the greetings, too. Prices start at £2.25 from **01768 71447**, www.vanessabee designs.co.uk

December 25th is on the horizon, which can only mean one thing: Santa Claus is coming to town...! Pattern 4593 from Sirdar, £2.99, 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com



Christmas IS THE SEASON...

...OF QUICK GIFTS, STOCKING FILLERS AND FESTIVE SPARKLE!

This Month's —MUST VISIT—

It's time for us crafters to start gathering supplies, inspiration, gift ideas and more! Crafts for Christmas, running alongside the Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycrafts Show along with Art Materials Live, takes place this year across the 5th-8th November in Birmingham and is the place to go for all of your festive needs. Don't forget to admire the world's largest knitted Christmas tree – 75 feet tall! – and the giant Knitted Gingerbread Grotto. We'll be there in collaboration with Deramores! Tickets start at £10.50 for adults from **01425 277988**, www.ichfevents.co.uk



THIS MONTH We're knitting

Editorial assistant Molly has knitted a funky blue pirate! "Captain Bluebeard is from a recent issue of our sister mag, *Let's Get Crafting*. My little brother Kobe loves him!" Find out more at www.letsgetcrafting.com



DATES FOR *November*

22nd-25th October

Crafts for Christmas, Glasgow

www.ichfevents.co.uk

5th-8th November

Crafts for Christmas, Birmingham

www.ichfevents.co.uk

11th-15th November

Country Living Christmas Fair, London

www.countrylivingfair.com

12th-15th November

The Knitting and Stitching Show, Dublin

www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com

26th-29th November

The Knitting and Stitching Show, Harrogate

www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com

WE ASKED *our readers*

Who is your favourite person to knit for and why?

KASIA WYKA

My son, he's five and he loves wearing whatever mama knits.

ALANA ROBINSON-BLAKELY

My best friend's granddaughter gets so excited when I knit for her dolls.

DEBBIE ENGLISH

Friends and family. I love seeing what I made on people!

WHAT'S HOT ON THE LK WEBSITE

Love Zoe Halstead's adorable elf twins on page 16? Complete the festive family by downloading the patterns for their mum and dad, Bernard and Bernadette, over on the LK site – visit www.letsknit.co.uk and get them both for free!



MARTINE *makes*

GUERNSEY GIRL MARTINE SHARES HER PASSION FOR ALL THINGS HANDMADE. AS WELL AS BEING A KNITTER, SHE'S A TEACHER, PODCASTER AND REMARKABLY AVERAGE UKULELE PLAYER. FIND OUT MORE AT IMAKEGSY.COM.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas – I'm excited! I love everything 'Christmas', not least, the opportunity for lots of festive knitting. Now, I hate to break it to you, but if you are planning on gifting knitted items to your nearest and dearest this Christmas, then you should have all of this planned by now. It should be a work in progress. I have my fingers crossed for you... Assuming your Christmas gift knitting is well on the way, here are a few festive project ideas for decorating your home.



some twine or string and you've got a lovely garland. This is a really nice Christmas craft to do with children.

Not Just Knitting

If you fancy extending your yarn craft repertoire, there are some wonderful tutorials online for needle felted Christmas tree ornaments. Robins and gingerbread characters look particularly cute. Perhaps consider dabbling in crochet to make snowflakes. These can be stiffened

with glue and hung on your tree or made into a garland – they look extremely effective.

Tree Decoration

Every year I look forward to rediscovering my knitted Christmas baubles from Arne and Carlos's "55 Christmas Balls to Knit". I really should make a habit of knitting a new one every year – perhaps I'll even try designing my own. A knitted bauble makes a lovely gift for the host or hostess of your Christmas lunch. Alternatively, there are a number of patterns on Ravelry for miniature Christmas sweaters – you could use Swiss darning to personalise them with your own motif and wire to construct a miniature hanger. If that sounds a bit too fiddly for you, consider making pompoms with yarn scraps. Thread them onto

Around the Home

Secretly, I am a big fan of traditional Christmas sweaters – the cheesier the better. The trouble is they look awful on me! All is not lost though, old Christmas sweaters can be upcycled in a number of ways. I rather like the idea of showcasing particularly nice patterned areas by cutting them out and mounting them in embroidery hoops. If you are looking for a more traditional project then knitted Christmas stockings are a fun way to practice sock construction and Fair Isle/stranded knitting at the same time. Have a wonderful Christmas everyone and happy knitting.

TTFN – Martine XOX

Pick from the LK BLOG

- What would Christmas be without an endless array of lovely hand knitted toys? We've been making a list (and checking it twice!) of all the plushies we want to find under our tinsel-adorned tree this year.
- Head over to our website to find them all!





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Mulled Wine

Anniken Allis' lace top is super soft and subtly festive!

EXCLUSIVE TO
Let's knit

Red sweaters always look cheerful and this design features a dainty lace pattern to bring a touch of elegance to the season. The yarn contains 20% alpaca fibre so it has a soft halo which is lovely and cosy, whilst retaining the stitch definition needed to show off the eyelet design. The shoulders are shaped using German short rows, so read our Knitwise panel overleaf before you begin.



meet our
DESIGNER

"This sweater is worked in the round from the bottom to the underarm. The front and back will be worked separately to the shoulders which are joined using a three-needle cast off. The sleeves stitches are picked up around the armhole and worked from the top down."

ANNIKEN ALLIS

Measurements & sizes

Dress size (approx):

8 (10-12, 14-16, 18-20)

To fit chest (cm): 81 (91, 101, 112)

Actual chest (cm): 85 (95, 107, 117)

Length (cm): 55 (56.5, 58, 60)

Sleeve length (cm):

43 (44, 42.5, 43.5)

Knit Kit

Yarn: **Stylecraft Alpaca DK**,

shade 6022 Red, 3 (4, 5, 5)

100g balls

Needles: 4.5mm (40cm and

80cm) circular, 4.5mm

double-pointed

Stitch markers

Tension Square

20 sts x 25 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4.5mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Stylecraft Alpaca DK blends 20% alpaca with 80% acrylic, and is warm, light to wear and great value. It can be machine washed and tumble dried, and comes in 14 colourways.

Need an Alternative?

If you'd prefer a smooth yarn, try Rico Essentials Merino DK. It's a superwash pure wool yarn. Shades 005 Red or 011 Wine Red would work well for this project.

Let's Shop

Stylecraft Alpaca DK costs

£3.75 per 100g (240m) ball

from 07974 954663,

www.awoollytail.com

Rico Essentials Merino DK costs

£3.69 per 50g (120m) ball from

01376 743123, www.sconch.com

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CHART WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS

□ Rnd 1: k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1 tbl, k1, k1 tbl, yfwd, ssk, k1

□ Rnd 2 and all even-numbered rnds: k

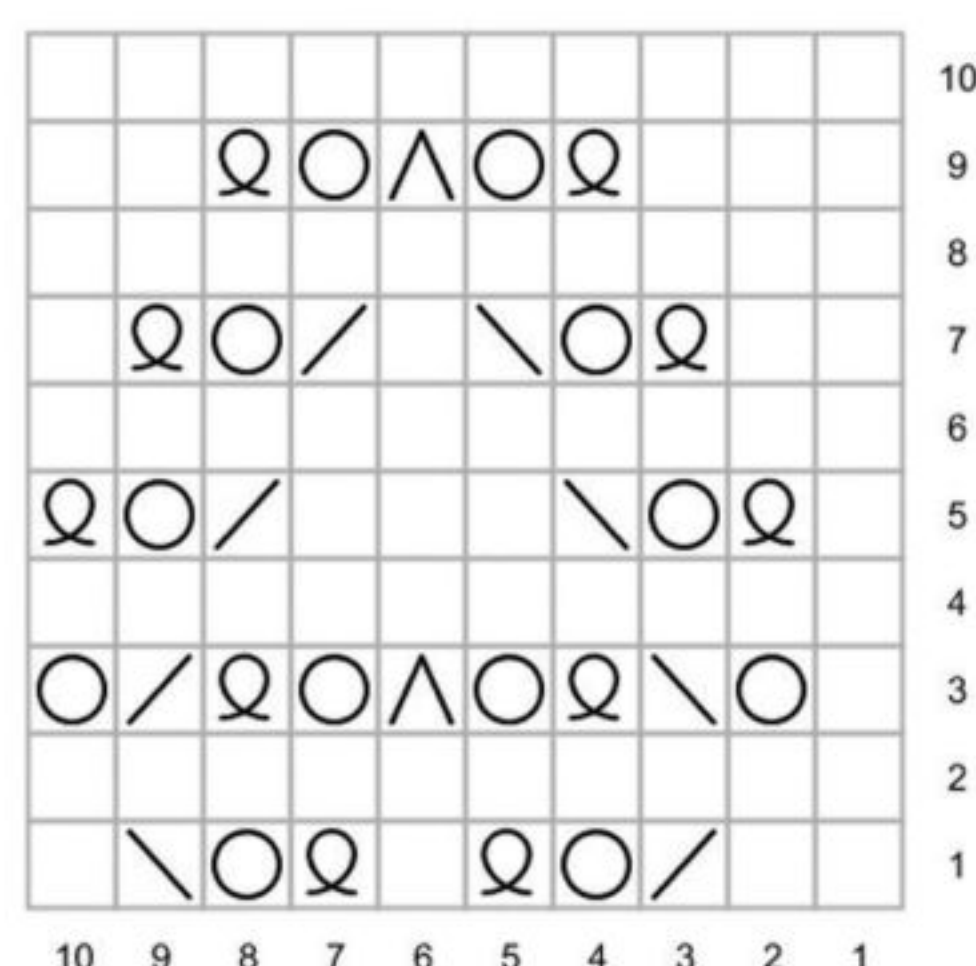
□ Rnd 3: k1, yfwd, ssk, k1 tbl, yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yfwd, k1 tbl, k2tog, yfwd

□ Rnd 5: k1, k1 tbl, yfwd, ssk, k3, k2tog, yfwd, k1 tbl

□ Rnd 7: k2, k1 tbl, yfwd, ssk, k1, k2tog, yfwd, k1 tbl, k1

□ Rnd 9: k3, k1 tbl, yfwd, sl 1, k2tog, pssso, yfwd, k1 tbl, k2

□ Rnd 10: k



Stitch Pattern:

Key

□ knit

○ yfwd

⊙ k tbl

⊘ k2tog

⊘ ssk

⊘ sl 1, k2tog, pssso

Start knitting here

BODY

NOTE: Front has fewer stitches than Back to make up for lace pattern tension being different from stocking stitch tension – check Front is not wider than Back as you progress

Using 4.5mm (80cm) circular needle, cast on 166 (186, 210, 230) sts, join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd

□ Rnd 1: p81 (91, 103, 113), pm, p85 (95, 107, 117)

□ Rnd 2: k to end

□ Rnd 3: p to end

□ Rep Rnds 2-3 seven times more

□ Next rnd: k25 (30, 31, 36), pm, work Row 1 of Chart 3 (3, 4, 4) times, k1, pm, k25 (30, 31, 36), sm,

k27 (32, 33, 38), pm, k31 (31, 41, 41), pm, k27 (32, 33, 38) to end

□ Rnd 2: k to end

□ Rnd 3: k to marker, sm, work Row 3 of Chart 3 (3, 4, 4) times, k1, sm, k to side marker, sm, k to end

□ Rnd 4: k to end

SHAPE WAIST

□ Next rnd: k to two sts before marker, k2tog, sm, work Row 5 of Chart 3 (3, 4, 4) times, k1, sm, ssk, k to side marker, sm, k to two sts before marker, k2tog, sm, k31 (31, 41, 41), sm, ssk, k to end. 162 (182, 206, 226) sts

□ Work five rnds in patt

□ Rep last six Rnds four times more. 146 (166, 190, 210) sts

□ Work eight rnds in patt

□ Next Rnd: k to marker, m1, sm, work next row of Chart 3 (3, 4, 4) times, k1, sm, m1, k to side marker, sm, k to marker, m1, sm, k31 (31, 41, 41), sm, m1, k to end. 150 (170, 194, 214) sts

□ Work seven rnds in patt

□ Rep last eight Rnds four times more. 166 (186, 210, 230) sts

□ Cont in patt until Body meas

37.5 (38, 38, 39)cm, ending after an even-numbered rnd

Place 81 (91, 103, 113) sts on holder for Front

NOTE: Markers can be removed from Back and sides; leave in place two markers either side of lace patt on Front

BACK

NOTE: Front and Back are now worked in rows separately to shoulders – make sure tension remains same on both

Rejoin yarn to rem 85

(95, 107, 117) sts

SHAPE ARMHOLES

□ Cast off 4 (5, 6, 7) sts at beg of next two rows. 77 (85, 95, 103) sts

□ Next row (RS): k2, ssk, k to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 75 (83, 93, 101) sts

□ Next row (WS): p2, p2tog, p to

last four sts, p2tog tbl, p2. 73 (81, 91, 99) sts

□ Rep last two rows a further 1 (1, 2, 3) times. 69 (77, 83, 87) sts

□ Cont to dec on RS rows only once more. 67 (75, 81, 85) sts

□ Cont working in st st until Back measures 54 (55.5, 57, 59) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

□ Row 1 (RS): k18 (22, 24, 26), turn, place rem sts on holder

□ Row 2 (WS): p1, p2tog, p to end. 17 (21, 23, 25) sts

□ Row 3: k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 16 (20, 22, 24) sts

SHAPE RIGHT SHOULDER

NOTE: Shoulders are worked using German short rows (see Knitwise)

□ Row 1 (WS): p10 (12, 14, 16), turn

□ Row 2 (RS): sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, k to end

□ Row 3: p5 (6, 7, 8), turn

□ Row 4: sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, k to end

□ Row 5: p to end, working wraps as they appear

Place sts on holder

SHAPE LEFT NECK

Leave 31 (31, 33, 33) sts at centre back on holder, re-attach yarn to rem 18 (22, 24, 26) sts

□ Row 1 (RS): k to end

□ Row 2 (WS): p to last three sts, p2tog tbl, p1. 17 (21, 23, 25) sts

□ Row 3: k1, ssk, k to end. 16 (20, 22, 24) sts

□ Row 4: p to end

SHAPE LEFT SHOULDER

NOTE: Shoulders are worked using German short rows

□ Row 1 (RS): k10 (12, 14, 16), turn

□ Row 2 (WS): sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to

back and pull up, p to end
☐ Row 3: k5 (6, 7, 8), turn
☐ Row 4: sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, p to end
☐ Row 5: k to end, working wraps as they appear
 Place sts on holder

FRONT

Rejoin yarn to 81 (91, 103, 113) sts for Front

SHAPE ARMHOLES

☐ Cast off 4 (5, 6, 7) sts at beg of next two rows. 73 (81, 91, 99) sts
☐ Next row (RS): k2, ssk, work in patt to last four sts, k2tog, k2. 71 (79, 89, 97) sts
☐ Next row (WS): p2, p2tog, p to last four sts, p2tog tbl, p2. 69 (77, 87, 95) sts
☐ Rep last two rows a further 1 (1, 2, 3) times. 65 (73, 79, 83) sts
☐ Cont to dec on RS row only once more. 63 (71, 77, 81) sts
☐ Cont working in patt until Front meas 44.5 (45.5, 46, 47.5) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE LEFT NECK

☐ Row 1 (RS): k20 (24, 26, 28), turn, place rem sts on holder
☐ Row 2 (WS): p1, p2tog, p to end. 19 (23, 25, 27) sts
☐ Row 3: k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 18 (22, 24, 26) sts
☐ Rep last two rows once more. 16 (20, 22, 24) sts
☐ Cont working in st st until left Front matches Back to shoulder shaping, ending after a RS row

SHAPE LEFT SHOULDER

NOTE: Shoulders are worked using German short rows

☐ Row 1 (WS): p10 (12, 14, 16), turn
☐ Row 2 (RS): sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, k to end
☐ Row 3: p5 (6, 7, 8), turn
☐ Row 4: sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, k to end
☐ Row 5: p to end, working wraps as they appear
☐ Leave sts on holder

SHAPE RIGHT NECK

Leave 23 (23, 25, 25) sts at centre Front on holder, rejoin yarn to rem 20 (24, 26, 28) sts
☐ Row 1 (RS): k to end
☐ Row 2 (WS): p to last three sts, p2tog tbl, p1. 19 (23, 25, 27) sts
☐ Row 3: k1, ssk, k to end. 18 (22, 24, 26) sts
☐ Rep last two rows once more. 16 (20, 22, 24) sts
☐ Next row: p to end

SHAPE RIGHT SHOULDER

NOTE: Shoulders are worked using German short rows

☐ Row 1 (RS): k10 (12, 14, 16), turn
☐ Row 2 (WS): sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, p to end
☐ Row 3: k5 (6, 7, 8), turn
☐ Row 4: sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, p to end
☐ Row 5: k to end, working wraps as they appear
 Leave sts on holder

SLEEVES

Join shoulders by working a three-needle cast off on the WS (see page 85)

☐ Using 4.5mm (40cm) circular needle, beg at underarm with RS facing, pick up and k4 (5, 6, 7) sts from underarm, 27 (28, 31, 33) sts to shoulder, 27 (28, 31, 33) sts to underarm and 4 (5, 6, 7) sts from underarm, join work in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd. 62 (66, 74, 80) sts
☐ Row 1 (RS): k41 (44, 49, 53), turn
☐ Row 2 (WS): sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, p20 (22, 24, 26), turn
☐ Row 3: sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, k to turning point, k double st tog, k1, turn
☐ Row 4: sl 1 wyif, take working yarn over RH needle to back and pull up, p to turning point, p double st tog, p1, turn
☐ Rep last two rows until only underarm sts rem
☐ Next row: p to end
☐ K ten rnds, working wraps as they appear

NOTE: You may find it easier to change to double-pointed needles

☐ Next rnd: k1, ssk, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1
☐ Work 6 (6, 5, 4) rnds
☐ Rep last 7 (7, 6, 5) rnds a further 10 (11, 13, 15) times. 40 (42, 46, 48) sts
☐ Cont in st st until Sleeve meas 40 (41, 41.5, 42.5) cm from underarm
☐ Next rnd: p to end
☐ Next rnd: k to end
☐ Rep last two rnds twice more
☐ Next rnd: p to end
☐ Cast off loosely

NECKBAND

☐ Using 4.5mm (40cm) circular needle, beg at left shoulder with RS facing, pick up and k 32 (33, 35, 36) sts to Front neck, k23 (23, 25, 25) from Front neck holder, pick up and k 32 (33, 35, 36) sts to right shoulder,



pick up and k five sts to Back neck, 31 (31, 33, 33) sts from Back neck holder pick up and k five sts to left shoulder, join work in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd 128 (130, 138, 140) sts
☐ Rnd 1: p to end

☐ Rnd 2: k to end
☐ Rep last two Rnds twice more
☐ Rnd 7: p to end
☐ Cast off
 Weave in all ends and block to measurements **LK**

"German short rows are used to shape the shoulders, but you can use regular short row shaping if you prefer"

LK Editorial Assistant **Isobel Smith**

Measurements & sizes

Height: 27cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: (A) King Cole Big Value Baby DK, shade 1682 Citrus; one 100g ball, King Cole Pricewise DK, shades (B) 9 Red, (C) 39 Shamrock, one 100g ball of each, King Cole Dollymix DK, shades (D) 149 Flesh, (E) 1 White, one 25g ball of each, King Cole Cuddles DK, shade (F) 1175 White; one 50g ball, oddments of yellow and brown yarn

Needles: 3.25mm

Tapestry needle

Safety toy stuffing

Safety eyes: black, four, 6mm (two for each)

Embroidery thread: black

Bells: small, eight (four for each), medium, two (one for each)

Buttons: two red (boy elf only) white, heart shape, two (girl elf only)

Tension Square

22 sts x 32 rows

10cm x 10cm

over pattern

3.25mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

King Cole Big Value Baby DK, Pricewise DK, Dollymix DK and Cuddles DK are all 100% acrylic yarns in a DK weight which come in a huge range of colours and are machine washable up to 40°C.

Need an Alternative?

Sirdar Snuggly Snowflake DK in shade 630 Milky makes a good substitute for Cuddles DK. Any acrylic DK can be used for the other yarns.

Let's Shop

Big Value Baby DK costs £2.59 per 100g (290m) ball, Pricewise DK costs £1.99 per 100g (282m) ball and Dollymix DK costs £0.99 per 25g (73m) ball, all from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

To get 15% off all orders at Deramores, quote LK98 at checkout.

Sirdar Snuggly Snowflake DK costs £1.99 per 25g (85m) ball from 01925 764231, www.blacksheepwools.com

15% OFF!

Buddy & Belle

Knit your own little helpers thanks to Zoë Halstead

You might remember Bernard and Bernadette from our previous festive issues.

Well let us introduce their little elfy children! These cheeky festive characters will make great decorations, gifts or even a Christmas day activity to enjoy while relaxing with the family.

They're also great for busting your stash of acrylic DK!

Start knitting here

BUDDY BODY & HEAD

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on eight sts

☐ ** Row 1: k

☐ Row 2: p1, (m1p, p1) seven times. 15 sts

☐ Row 3: k1, (m1, k2) seven times. 22 sts

☐ Row 4: p

☐ Row 5: k2, m1, (k3, m1) six times, k2. 29 sts

☐ Row 6: p

☐ Row 7: k3, m1, (k4, m1) six times, k2. 36 sts **

☐ Beg with a p row, work 15 rows in st st

SHAPE SHOULDERS

☐ *** Next row: k8, k2tog, k16, skpo, k8. 34 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k8, k2tog, k14, skpo, k8. 32 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k7, k2tog, k14, skpo, k7. 30 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k7, k2tog, k12, skpo, k7. 28 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k6, k2tog, k12, skpo, k6. 26 sts

☐ Next row: (p2tog) 13 times. 13 sts

☐ Change to yarn D and beg with a k row, work two rows in st st

SHAPE HEAD

☐ Next row: kfb in every st. 26 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k3, m1, (k4, m1) five times, k3. 32 sts

☐ Beg with a p row, work 13 rows in st st

SHAPE TOP OF HEAD

☐ Next row: (k2tog) to end. 16 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: (k2tog) to end. Eight sts

☐ Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off ***

NOSE

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn D, cast on two sts

☐ Beg with a k row, work two rows in st st

☐ Cast off

EARS (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn D, cast on two sts

☐ K one row

☐ Next row: kfb, k1. Three sts

☐ K two rows

☐ Next row: skpo, k1. Two sts

☐ K one row

☐ Next row: skpo

☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull right and fasten off

ARMS (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on two sts

☐ K one row

☐ Beg with a p row, work five rows in st st inc one st at each end of every row. 12 sts

☐ Beg with a k row, work six rows in st st

HAND

☐ Change to yarn D and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st

☐ Next row: (k2tog) to end. Six sts

☐ Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off





EXCLUSIVE TO
**Let's
Knit**



meet our
DESIGNER

"Buddy and Belle are cute, twin baby elves to add to the family at Christmas time. Their small size makes them perfect as stocking fillers."

ZOE HALSTEAD

rem sts and rep from **** to **** six times more

HAT

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn F, cast on 32 sts

☐ K two rows

☐ Change to yarn A and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st
Change to yarn E

☐ Next row: k3, k2tog, (k6, k2tog) three times, k3. 28 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k3, k2tog, (k5, k2tog) three times, k2. 24 sts

☐ Next row: p

Change to yarn A

☐ Next row: k2, k2tog, (k4, k2tog) three times, k2. 20 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k2, k2tog, (k3, k2tog) three times, k1. 16 sts

☐ Next row: p

Change to yarn E

☐ Next row: k1, k2tog, (k2, k2tog) three times, k1. 12 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: (k1, k2tog) four times. Eight sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Change to yarn A and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st

☐ Change to yarn E and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st

☐ Change to yarn A and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st

☐ Change to yarn E and starting with a k row, work three rows in st st

☐ Next row: (p2tog) four times. Four sts

☐ Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

To make up

Weave in all ends. Sew centre back seam of head using yarn left at top of head. Stuff well then attach toy eyes approximately five stitches apart. Sew running stitches around neck in first row of yarn D, pull up tightly and fasten off to secure. Sew centre back seam of body down part way. Sew cast-on edges of body then centre back seam part way up,

SHOES & LEGS

(make two)

SHOE

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on ten sts

☐ Row 1 (WS): k

☐ Row 2: k4, (kfb) twice, k4. 12 sts

☐ Row 3: k

☐ Row 4: kfb, k3, kfb, k2, kfb, k3, kfb. 16 sts

☐ Row 5: k

☐ Row 6: kfb, (k4, kfb) three times. 20 sts

☐ Rows 7-8: k

☐ Row 9: k7, k2tog, k2, k2tog, k7. 18 sts

☐ Row 10: k7, (k2tog) twice, k7. 16 sts

☐ Row 11: k6, (k2tog) twice, k6. 14 sts

☐ Row 12: k5, (k2tog) twice, k5. 12 sts

LEG

Change to yarn A

☐ P one row

☐ Next row: kfb, k to last st, kfb. 14 sts

☐ Beg with a p row, work four rows in st st

☐ Next row: p2tog, p to last two sts, p2tog. 12 sts

SHAPE KNEE

☐ Next row: k9, turn

☐ Next row: sl 1 pwise, p5, turn

☐ Next row: sl 1 pwise, k3, turn

☐ Next row: sl 1 pwise, p1, turn

☐ Next row: sl 1 pwise, k to last st, kfb. 13 sts

☐ Next row: p to last st, pfb. 14 sts

☐ Next row: kfb, k to last st, kfb. 16 sts

☐ Beg with a p row, work three rows in st st

☐ Next row: skpo, k to last two sts,

k2tog. 14 sts

☐ Next row: p

☐ Cast off

COLLAR

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on 14 sts

☐ Row 1 (RS): k one row

☐ Row 2: k1, m1, (k2, m1) six times, k1. 21 sts

☐ Row 3: p

☐ Row 4: k2, m1, (k3, m1) six times, k1. 28 sts

☐ Row 5: k

CREATE POINTS

☐ **** Next row: k4, turn

☐ Next row: skpo, k2tog. Two sts

☐ Next row: skpo

☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off ****

☐ With WS facing, rejoin yarn to

knitwise

Safety first

If you're making Buddy or Belle to give to a baby or toddler, ensure that you use safety toy stuffing and sew on eyes, bells and buttons very securely, or embroider them on instead.



leaving a gap for stuffing. Stuff well then close seam. Gather up edges of nose piece to make a small ball then sew to toy's face between eyes as shown. Using pink embroidery thread, embroider mouth below nose using image as guide. Sew hand and underarm seam, leaving shaped section at top unsewn. Stuff firmly then sew shaped section at top of arm over shoulder shapings. Weave in all ends on Collar. Place collar on toy's neck, then sew the centre back seam. Sew buttons to front of toy's body in position using image as guide. Sew sole and heel seam of each shoe and stuff well. Then sew remainder of leg seam and stuff well making sure to mould knee so there is a bend in each leg

SHOE CUFF (make two)

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn B, cast on 13 sts
☐ K four rows
 Do not cast off, instead graft sts on needle to top row of shoe, starting at centre front and working around back of leg and back to centre front

Sew a small bell to the point of each shoe cuff. Oversew top of each leg then sew to bottom of body at a slight angle and so that the toy is seated. Sew centre back seam of hat and sew bell to point. Sew three loops of yellow yarn to centre front of toy's head using image as guide. Place hat on toy's head over loops and sew in place all the way round. Turn one ear over to make a mirrored pair and sew them to each side of head using image as guide.

BELLE BODY & HEAD

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn C, cast on eight sts
☐ Work as given for Buddy Body from ** to **
☐ Starting with a p row, work eight rows in st st
☐ Change to yarn B and starting with a p row, work two rows in st st
☐ Next row (picot): p1, * yrn, p2tog, rep from * to last st, p1
☐ Starting with a k row, work eight rows in st st

SHAPE SHOULDERS

☐ Work and complete as given for Buddy Body from *** to ***

NOSE

☐ Work as given for Buddy

EARS (make two)

☐ Work as given for Buddy

ARMS (make two)

☐ Work as given for Buddy but use yarn B instead of yarn A

SHOES & LEGS (make two)

☐ Work as given for Buddy but use yarn C instead of yarn A on legs

COLLAR

☐ Work as given for Buddy but use yarn C instead of yarn B

HAT

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn F, cast on 32 sts
☐ K two rows
☐ Change to yarn B and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st
 Change to yarn E
☐ Next row: k3, k2tog, (k6, k2tog) three times, k3. 28 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: k3, k2tog, (k5, k2tog) three times, k2. 24 sts
☐ Next row: p
 Change to yarn B
☐ Next row: k2, k2tog, (k4, k2tog) three times, k2. 20 sts
☐ Next row: p

☐ Next row: k2, k2tog, (k3, k2tog) three times, k1. 16 sts
☐ Next row: p
 Change to yarn E
☐ Next row: k1, k2tog, (k2, k2tog) three times, k1. 12 sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Next row: (k1, k2tog) four times. Eight sts
☐ Next row: p
☐ Change to yarn B and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st
☐ Change to yarn E and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st
☐ Change to yarn B and starting with a k row, work four rows in st st
☐ Change to yarn E and starting with a k row, work three rows in st st
☐ Next row: (p2tog) four times. Four sts
☐ Cut yarn, leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

To make up

Weave in all ends. Fold body at picot row and, on wrong side, sew rows together to form a picot edged ridge on right side. Continue making up as for Buddy but use brown instead of yellow for the hair. Sew loops of brown yarn to centre front of toy's head using image as guide. Then sew long loops of brown yarn around back of head between where the ears will be. Cut loops and trim to an even length as shown. Place hat on toy's head over hair and sew in place all the way round. Using black embroidery thread, embroider straight stitches for eyelashes above eyes using image as guide **LK**

Download
 Buddy and Belle's
 parents for
 free from
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We wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.RICO-DESIGN.CO.UK



Merry & Bright

Fight the winter blues with this cheerful cowl designed by Helen Ardley

Accessories are a great way to introduce colour into your winter wardrobe and stay cosy into the bargain! This cowl uses the Fair Isle technique but as it's such a regular, repeating pattern it couldn't be easier. You are only ever using two colours on a row, knitting with one while stranding the other across the back of the work.

Measurements

21cm high x 66cm circumference

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rico Essentials Merino DK in shades (A) 19 Dark Purple, two 50g balls, (B) 15 Dark Pink, (C) 10 Pink, (D) 2 Pale Pink, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm, 4mm

Buttons: pink, seven

Tension Square

26 sts and 30 rows to 10cm over pattern using 4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rico Essentials Merino DK is a fantastic value pure wool yarn. It costs £3.69 per 50g (120m) ball from 01376 743123, www.sconch.com

10% OFF! Yarn packs with all you need plus optional buttons from £18. Get 10% off all orders at Sconch, quote 'LK7S' when ordering.

Start knitting here

COWL

Using 4mm needles and yarn A, cast on 170 sts

□ Rows 1-2: k

NOTE: Letter in square bracket indicates yarn shade

□ ** Row 3: [A] k2, * [B] k2, [A] k2, rep from * to end

□ Row 4: [A] p2, * [B] p2, [A] p2, rep from * to end

□ Rep Rows 3-4 three times more

□ [A] K two rows

□ Next row: [C] k2, * [A] k2, [C] k2, rep from * to end

□ Next row: [C] p2, * [A] p2, [C] p2, rep from * to end

□ Rep last two rows three times more

□ [A] K two rows

□ Next row: [A] k2, * [D] k2, [A] k2, rep from * to end

□ Next row: [A] p2, * [D] p2, [A] p2, rep from * to end

□ Rep last two rows three times more **

□ Rep from ** to ** once

□ [A] K two rows

□ Cast off

EDGING

□ Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, pick up and k 50 sts down right side edge of Cowl

□ K ten rows

□ Cast off

To make up

Weave in ends. Sew side edges of main part of cowl, then sew edging flat over the top. Sew decorative buttons, evenly spaced, down garter stitch edge **LK**



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3 OF THE BEST Special Yarns

Any knitter would love to find one of these yarns in their stocking! Colinette Art is an aran-weight bamboo-wool blend yarn available in wonderful hand-dyed colours. It costs £9.35 per 100g (173m) ball. Debbie Bliss Fine Donegal is a luxurious tweed 4ply yarn that comprises 95% wool and



5% cashmere. It costs £12.95 per 100g (380m) ball. Katia Royal Silk blends 64% royal baby alpaca, 26% silk and 10% Polyamide, knits to an aran tension and costs £7.60 per 25g (112m) ball. All three yarns are available from **01782 862332**, www.cucumberpatch.com

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COOL DUDE

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meet our
DESIGNER



PENNY HILL

“Due to the large pattern repeat and to avoid armhole seams we’ve used circular needles, working back and forth and incorporating the sleeves in with the body.”

“Be on trend in this striking textured sweater”

This season is all about fuzzy textures and Penny Hill’s gorgeous design is knitted in a soft, alpaca-blend yarn that has a brushed finish. The gentle halo of the yarn works well with the bold colour pattern, making this a true stand-out garment for your autumn/winter wardrobe. This pattern uses the stranded colourwork method – see our Knitwise panel for tips on this technique. No chart is needed as it’s a relatively short pattern repeat. Three-quarter length sleeves and a wide ribbed waistband make for a flattering and feminine fit – so what are you waiting for? Cast on this stylish sweater this weekend!

Measurements & sizes

Dress size (approx):
8-10 (12-14, 16-18)

To fit chest (cm):
81-86 (92-97, 102-107)

Actual chest (cm):
87.5 (100, 112)

Length from back neck (cm):
50 (52, 53)

Sleeve length (cm): 33

Knit Kit

Yarn: Patons Fashion Soft Mix in shades
(A) Pale Pink, 6 (7, 7) 25g balls, (B) Claret,
5 (5, 6) 25g balls

Needles: 3.25mm straight, 4mm straight,
4mm circular

Stitch markers

Tension Square

22 sts x 35 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

About the Yarn

Patons Fashion Soft Mix is new for this season and blends 30% alpaca with 25% wool and 45% nylon. This composition makes it warm to wear and the brushed finish gives a cosy texture. It should be hand washed and comes in ten shades. A 25g (113m) ball costs £3.95 from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Knitted in
fabulous
fuzzy yarn!



Start knitting here

BACK

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on 88 (100, 112) sts

□ Row 1: [k1, p1] to end

Row 1 sets 1x1 rib

□ Work in 1x1 rib for a further 40 rows

□ Inc row: rib 6, [m1, rib 3] 25 (29, 33) times, m1, rib 7. 114 (130, 146) sts

Change to 4mm needles and work in patt as folls:

NOTE: Letter foll instruction indicates yarn shade

□ Row 1: [k4 A, k12 B] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 B

□ Row 2: p2 B, [p12 B, p4 A] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 3: [k2 A, k12 B, k2 A] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 A

□ Row 4: p2 A, [p2 A, p12 B, p2 A] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 5: [k8 B, k2 A, k2 B, k4 A] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 A

□ Row 6: p2 A, [p4 A, p2 B, p2 A, p8 B] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 7: [k4 A, k2 B, k4 A, k2 B, k4 A] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 A

□ Row 8: p2 A, [p4 A, p2 B, p4 A, p2 B, p4 A] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 9: [k8 A, k4 B, k4 A] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 A

□ Row 10: p2 A, [p4 A, p4 B, p8 A] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 11: [k6 A, k4 B, k6 A] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 A

□ Row 12: p2 A, [p6 A, p4 B, p6 A] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 13: [k2 B, k2 A, k4 B, k8 A] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 B

□ Row 14: p2 B, [p8 A, p4 B, p2 A, p2 B] 7 (8, 9) times

□ Row 15: [k2 B, k2 A, k8 B, k2 A, k2 B] 7 (8, 9) times, k2 B

□ Row 16: p2 B, [p2 B, p2 A, p8 B, p2 A, p2 B] 7 (8, 9) times

These 16 rows set patt

□ Cont in patt as set without shaping until Back meas 26cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

SLEEVES

Change to 4mm circular needle

□ Cast on eight sts at beg of next 16 rows. 242 (258, 274) sts

□ Work 36 (40, 44) rows without shaping

SHAPE UPPER SLEEVES

□ Cast off 12 sts at beg of next 14 rows. 74 (90, 106) sts

SHAPE SHOULDERS

□ Cast off 15 (21, 27) sts at beg of next two rows. 44 (48, 52) sts

Cut yarn B and cont in yarn A only

COLLAR

Change to 3.25mm needles

□ Next row: k to end

□ Next row: cast on five sts, k1, [p1, k1] to end. 49 (53, 57) sts

□ Next row: cast on five sts, [k1, p1] to end. 54 (58, 62) sts

□ Next row: cast on five sts, p1, [k1, p1] to end. 59 (63, 67) sts

- ☐ Next row: cast on five sts, [p1, k1] to end. 64 (68, 72) sts
- ☐ Rep last four rows four times more
- ☐ Next row: [p1, k1] to end
- ☐ Cast off in rib

FRONT

- ☐ Work as given for Back until ten rows fewer have been worked than Back to Shape upper sleeves

SHAPE FRONT NECK

- ☐ Next row: patt 107 (113, 119) sts, k2tog, turn, work on these sts for first side of neck shaping
- ☐ Dec one st at neck edge on next nine rows.

99 (105, 111) sts

SHAPE UPPER SLEEVE

- ☐ Cast off 12 sts at beg of next and foll six RS rows. 15 (21, 27) sts

SHAPE SHOULDER

- ☐ Work one row
- ☐ Cast off
- ☐ With RS facing, rejoin yarn A to rem sts, cast off centre 24 (28, 32) sts, rejoin yarn B, skpo, patt to end
- ☐ Dec one st at neck edge on next nine rows. 99 (105, 111) sts
- ☐ Work one row

SHAPE UPPER SLEEVE

- ☐ Cast off 12 sts at beg of next and foll six WS rows. 15 (21, 27) sts

SHAPE SHOULDER

- ☐ Work one row
- ☐ Cast off

SLEEVE BORDERS

- Join shoulder and upper sleeve seams
- ☐ Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A with RS facing, pick up and k 62 (66, 70) sts evenly along row ends
- ☐ Work in 1x1 rib as for Back for 28 rows
- ☐ Cast off in rib

To make up

- Join row ends of collar and sew collar in place.
- Join side and underarm seams **LK**

Picking up stitches on a selvedge

With the RS facing you, insert the RH needle into the work at the first stitch. Move the needle from the front to the back of the work between the first and second stitches of the first row. Wrap the yarn around the tip of the needle and draw it through the knitting to form a new stitch. Repeat this until you have picked up the desired number of stitches.



knitwise

Get to grips with stranded knitting

This houndstooth design is worked using the stranded knitting method. You use two colours on each row and carry all the yarns across the wrong side of the work as you knit. The strands are known as 'floats' and should only stretch over about five stitches before being woven into the work. You can do this as you work by bringing the contrast colour up from underneath the main colour, then working the next stitch. Next, take the contrast yarn in a downwards motion so it is back lying below the main yarn before knitting the next stitch in the main colour as instructed. This keeps the floats close to the back of the work. Try to keep your floats in the same relative position as one shade will look more dominant than the other.



The Patons logo, featuring a stylized knit stitch icon followed by the brand name "Patons" in a white serif font, all contained within a dark blue rounded rectangular background.

Patons

The "Make it COATS" logo, with "Make it" in a script font above a circular knit stitch icon, and "COATS" in a bold sans-serif font below it, all on a purple background.

Make it
COATS

makeitcoats.com

PBN0000-04042 Family Fairisle Jumpers knitted in Patons Wool Blend Aran



The WINNERS!

CHAMPAGNE AT THE READY!
IT'S TIME TO REVEAL THE
RESULTS OF **THE 2015
BRITISH KNITTING AWARDS**

It's always good to reward those who deserve it, which is why we're delighted to host the annual British Knitting Awards. It's a chance for those in the knitting industry who provide great service, be it with fabulous products, gorgeous designs or tip-top shopping experiences, to be recognised by those who matter most to them – the great knitty public! Thank you so much to everyone who nominated and then voted for their favourites over the last few months. Here are the results!



YARNS

BEST BABY YARN BRAND

1st Sirdar
2nd Debbie Bliss
3rd King Cole

BEST INDEPENDENT YARN BRAND

1st Deramores
2nd West Yorkshire Spinners
3rd Toft Alpaca

BEST VALUE YARN BRAND

1st Stylecraft
2nd Sirdar
3rd King Cole

BEST LUXURY YARN BRAND

1st Rowan
2nd Debbie Bliss
3rd Sublime

BEST SOCK YARN BRAND

1st Rowan
2nd Regia
3rd King Cole

BEST OVERALL BRAND

1st Sirdar
2nd Rowan
3rd Stylecraft

"We are absolutely delighted to have won the best baby yarn brand and best overall yarn brand categories in the British Knitting Awards. These awards are extremely important to us as they are voted for by the public and it is always wonderful to know that our customers have voted for us. We would like to say a huge thank you to all that did so."
Emma Mychajlowskyj, Sales Director, Sirdar



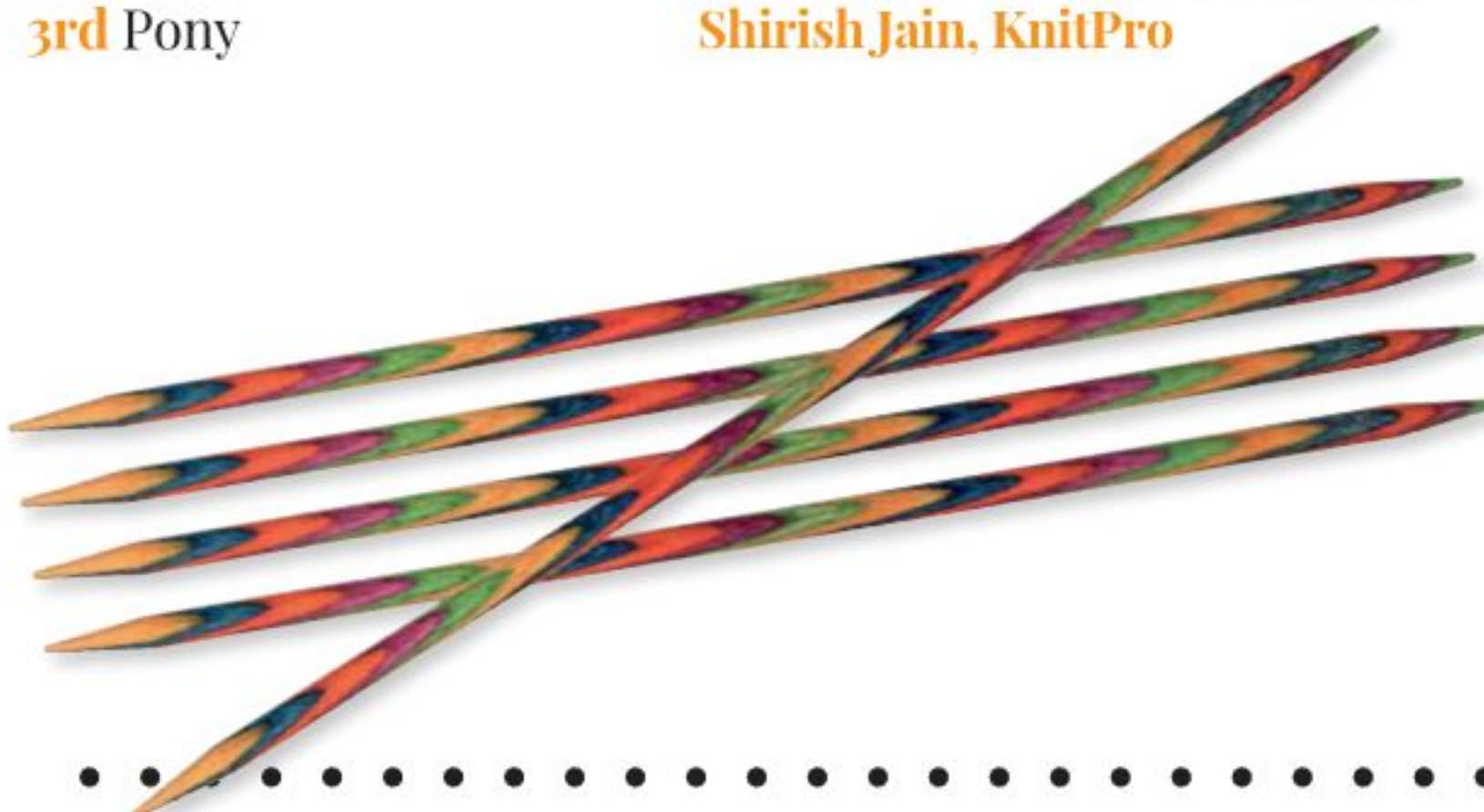
BEST KNITTING NEEDLE RANGE

1st KnitPro
2nd Milward
3rd Pony

BEST ACCESSORIES

1st KnitPro
2nd Clover
3rd Pony

"It's a great achievement and I am so happy to see the efforts of the KnitPro team consisting of more than 900 persons bearing fruits, year after year! We always strive to do our best in our mission to delight all our knitters and hopefully we would continue to travel on this path for a long time. Thank you so much everyone!"
Shirish Jain, KnitPro



BEST PATTERN HOUSE

1st Rowan
2nd Sirdar
3rd Deramores

"It is great to hear we have won awards that are voted by the consumer. It is very important to us that we are a design house that remains connected to the needs of an ever-changing knitting market. Thanks so much to all that voted – Happy Knitting."
David MacLeod, Design Manager, Rowan

BEST INDEPENDENT STORE

SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

- 1st** Loop, Islington, London
2nd The Cheap Shop, Tiptree, Essex
3rd Pack Lane Wool, Basingstoke

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND

- 1st** Get Knitted, Bristol
2nd Spin A Yarn, Bovey Tracey
3rd Wool, Bath

NORTH OF ENGLAND

- 1st** Black Sheep Wools, Warrington
2nd Baa Ram Ewe, Leeds
3rd Purl & Jane, Skipton

"We are delighted to have won North West Retailer of the Year against some great competition. It is all down to our fantastic, hardworking Black Sheep Wools team and our loyal customers. A huge thank you to everyone who voted for us!"

Sara, Black Sheep Wools

WALES

- 1st** The Wool Croft, Abergavenny
2nd Yarn 'n Yarns, Penarth
3rd Calon Yarns, Cardiff

"Thanks so much to everyone who voted for us in these awards, we really appreciate the vote of confidence. Our customers are wonderful, and

we love being your wool shop! Come see us again soon, for projects, woolly chats and inspiration."

Ginevra, The Wool Croft

IRELAND

- 1st** This is Knit, Dublin
2nd The Textile Studio, Belfast
3rd The Wool Shop, Newtownards, County Durham

MIDLANDS

- 1st** Knit Nottingham, Nottingham
2nd Knit One, Leicester
3rd City Knits (Christine's), Bournville

"Thank you SO much for voting for us for the third year running! This is the highlight of our year and really feels like a huge thank you for all the hard work and effort that goes into this tiny and disorganised little shop full of wool."

Eleanor, Knit Nottingham

SCOTLAND

- 1st** Wool for Ewe, Aberdeen
2nd The Yarn Cake, Glasgow
3rd Kingfishersblue, Edinburgh

"We are honoured to have won again this year, Mum and I would like to thank all of our customers for their support and friendship, we could not do it without them. Thank you."

Faye, Wool for Ewe

BEST KITTING DESIGNER

- 1st** Debbie Bliss
2nd Kaffe Fassett
3rd Kate Davies

"I feel so very privileged to be awarded Best Knitting Designer in the British Knitting Awards. It is really important to me that it is knitters who have voted and that they support and appreciate my designs. Thank you Let's Knit readers!"

Debbie Bliss



BEST BOOK 2015

- 1st** *Knitted With Love* by Jane Ellison
2nd *Edward's Menagerie* by Kerry Lord
3rd *The Knitting Book* by Vikki Haffenden

"I am overwhelmed to be awarded Best Book for Knitted with Love. I love designing and really enjoyed creating these patterns for children and babies. This book is the latest step on my journey to share the joy of knitting so it's heartwarming to win and I am so thankful to everyone who took the time to vote for my book and hopefully loves it too."

Jane Ellison



BEST YARN SHOP DAY EXPERIENCE 2015

- 1st** Black Sheep Wools, Warrington
2nd City Knits (Christine's), Bournville
3rd Knit Nottingham, Nottingham



BEST BRAND FOR BRITISH YARN

- 1st** West Yorkshire Spinners
2nd Toft Alpaca
3rd Jamieson & Smith

"We are absolutely thrilled to be awarded the accolade of 'Best Brand for British Yarn' for the second year running! We are extremely passionate about British yarn and manufacturing and so grateful for all the votes from our fantastic retailers and customers. The WYS brand is going from strength to strength; we have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team here at the factory and it feels great to be recognised and rewarded for all the hard work. Thanks"

Richard Longbottom, West Yorkshire Spinners

BEST CHAIN STORE

- 1st** John Lewis
2nd Hobbycraft
3rd Abakhan

BEST READY-TO-USE KNIT KITS

- 1st** Rowan
2nd The Little Knitting Company
3rd Toft Alpaca

BEST KNITTING SHOW/EVENT 2014-15

- 1st** *The Knitting & Stitching Show*, Olympia, March
2nd *The Knitting & Stitching Show*, Alexandra Palace, October
3rd Yarnale, Skipton, September

1

Home for Christmas

Deck your halls with these
fab and festive crafty creations

2

3

4

5

6

let's get cozy by the fire

7

Turn
over for four
exclusive
home makes!

8

9

WHERE TO FIND IT

1, 2, 3, 9: Turn over for exclusive patterns for Lynne Rowe's Ho Ho Ho bunting, Kelly Menzies' cutlery holders, Charmaine Fletcher's teacosy and Sarah Menezes' advent calendar **4:** Snowflake table runner, Stylecraft pattern leaflet 9033, £2.75, **07974 954663, www.awoollytail.com;** **5:** Lauren Aston Designs Hand Knit Christmas Stocking, £55, **www.notonthehighstreet.com;** **6:** Christmas Jumper Decoration Christmas Card, Made With Love Designs, £14.95, **www.notonthehighstreet.com;** **7:** Nicola Valiji's pompom garland, find the pattern in the November issue of Let's Knit, on sale 30th October; **8, 10:** Ruth Hawkin's Merry Mitten decorations, pdf pattern, £3.60, Ding Dong Merrily on High cushion, paper pattern £3, pdf pattern, £3.60, kit, £18, **www.ruthhawkinlimited.etsy.com;** **11, 12:** Claire Fairall's Felt Christmas Baubles, pattern download, £3, Felt Christmas Festive Jingle Bowl, free to download, **www.ravelry.com/stores/claire-fairall-designs**

12

11

10

HOLIDAY HANGER

Measurements & sizes

To fit 42cm wide hanger

Knit Kit

Yarn: Drops Karisma, shades (A) 18 Red, (B) 37 Forest Green, (C) 01 Off White, two 50g balls of each

Needles: 4mm straight, 4mm double-pointed, set of five

Stitch markers

Buttons: assortment

Beads: red and green, size 6, assortment

Stitch holder

Tension Square

21 sts x 28 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles

HOLLY TEACOSY (p34)

Measurements & sizes

Height: 21cm

Circumference at bottom: 49cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Sublime Extra Fine Merino DK, shades (A) 003 Albaster, two 50g balls, (B) 167 Red Hot, (C) 378 Basil, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3mm and 4mm straight, 3mm, 3.75mm and 4mm double-pointed

Stitch holder

Tension Square

22 sts x 28 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles

Special abbreviations

mb: make Bobble (see Knitwise, overleaf)

m1r: insert LH needle into horizontal bar between sts from back to front, k into front of this loop

m1l: insert LH needle into horizontal bar between sts from front to back, k into back of this loop

s2kpo: at the same time, sl next two sts kwise, k next st, pass two slipped sts over knitted st and off needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

ABOUT THE YARN



Drops Karisma is a practical superwash wool yarn that's great value and comes in a wide range of modern colours. It costs £2 per 50g (100m) ball from **0800 505 3300**, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

Start knitting here

STRING OF POUCHES (make six)

NOTE: Each string of pouches is worked from the bottom up. Make each one in changing colours of your choice, using photo as a guide

Using 4mm dpns and main colour, cast on six sts, divide evenly across three needles, join work in the rnd taking care not to twist sts

☐ Rnd 1: kfb in each st to

end. 12 sts

☐ Rnd 2: k1, * m1, k2, rep from * to last st, m1, k1. 18 sts

☐ Rnd 3: k2, * m1, k3, rep from * to last st, m1, k1. 24 sts

☐ Rnd 4: k3, * m1, k4, rep from * to last st, m1, k1. 30 sts

☐ Rnd 5: k4, * m1, k5, rep from * to last st, m1, k1. 36 sts

☐ Work ten rnds in st st

(k every rnd)

☐ Next rnd: * k2tog, k4, rep from * to end. 30 sts

☐ Next rnd: * k2tog, k3, rep from * to end. 24 sts

☐ I-cord set-up rnd: cast off six sts, k1 (two sts on needle), work an i-cord on these two sts for 5cm (see Knitwise). Cut yarn and place sts on holder

☐ Rejoin yarn to rem sts and rep last rnd twice more

☐ Return sts from holders to 4mm dpns and join to work in the rnd. Six sts

SECOND POUCH

Cut main colour and change to second colour

☐ Next rnd: k

☐ Work as for First pouch

THIRD POUCH

Cut second colour and change to third colour

☐ Next rnd: k

☐ Work as for First pouch

FOURTH POUCH

Cut third colour and change to



Holiday Hanger

Count down to the big day in style with this clever advent calendar designed by **Sarah Menezes**

main colour

☐ Next rnd: k

☐ Work as for First pouch

☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, pull tight and fasten off

Weave in two yarn tails but leave third for sewing up

☐ Make a further five Strings, working an 8cm i-cord on Fourth pouch only for three of the Strings

HANGER COVER (make two)

Using 4mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 93 sts

☐ Row 1: * p1, k1, rep from * to last st, p1

☐ Row 2: * k1, p1, rep from * to last st, k1

☐ Rep Row 1 once more

☐ Next row: k

Working in two-row stripe

sequence of yarn B, yarn C and yarn A, work as follows:

☐ Work in st st for 14 rows

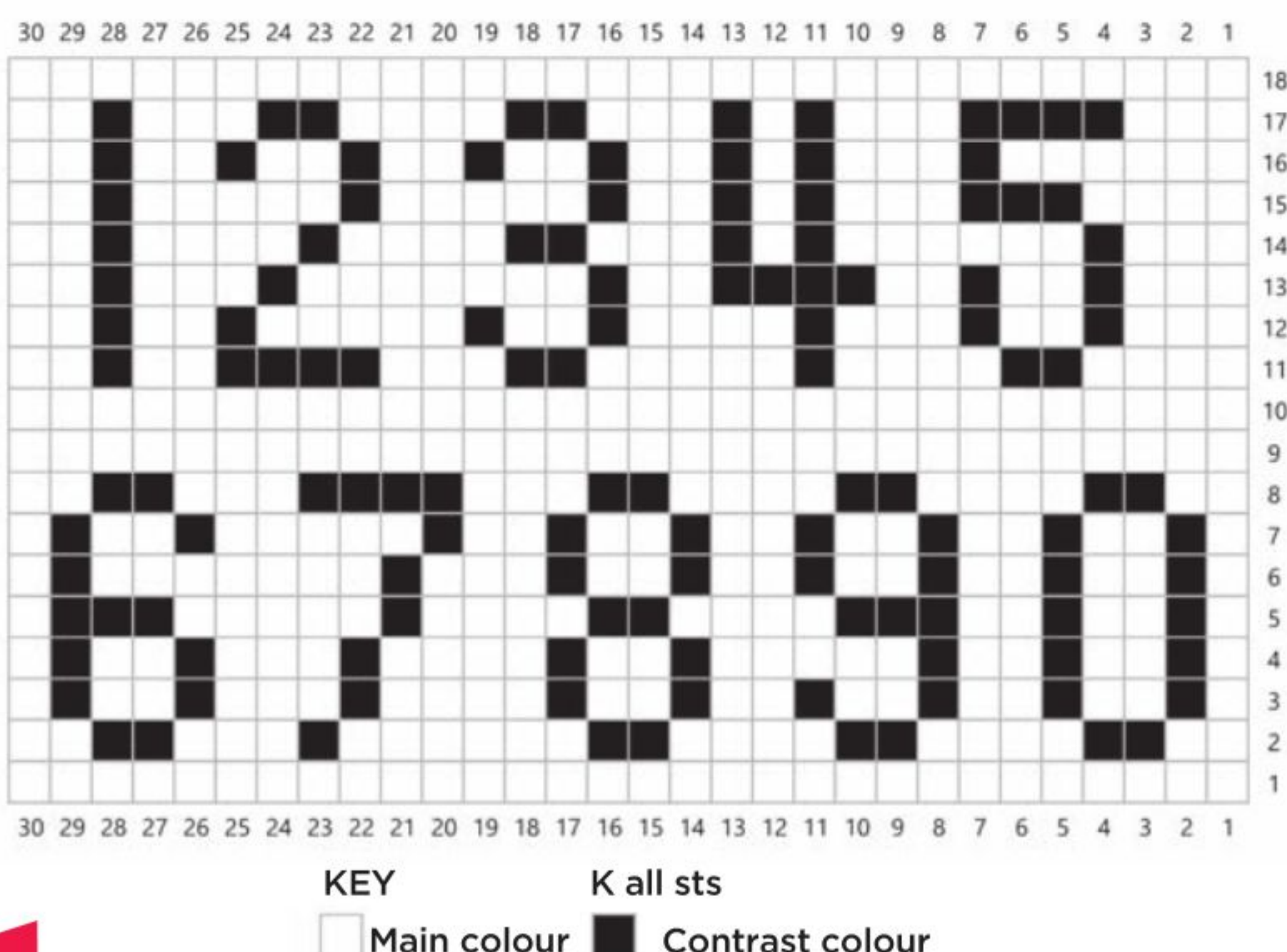
☐ Next row: cast off four sts, work to end. 89 sts

☐ Rep last row until 13 sts rem

☐ Cast off

To make up

Weave in all ends and block. Sew sides of Hanger cover together along vertical and diagonal edges, leaving top and bottom edges open. Insert hanger through lower edge before sewing lower edges together. Attach Strings of pouches to lower edge of hanger, being sure to space them evenly. Working from Chart Swiss darn numbers onto pouches and embellish with beads and buttons.



Get 10%
off all orders at
Wool Warehouse,
turn to page 77
for details

"These projects are a
great way to bring extra
festive cheer to your
home this Christmas!"

LK Editorial Assistant **Molly Todd**

How to knit an i-cord

This simple technique for creating a chunky cord is used in three of our Christmas home projects, including this one! Here's how you do it:

- Start with a small number of stitches on a double-pointed needle (your pattern will tell you how many). Knit these stitches but do not turn the work at the end of the row
- * Slide the stitches to the other end of the needle and take the yarn across the back of the work. Knit the row. Do not turn. Rep from * until your i-cord is the desired length



HOLLY TEACOSY (cont)



ABOUT THE YARN

Sublime Extra Fine Merino DK comprises 100% super soft merino wool and has a smooth twist for great stitch definition. It costs £4.59 per 50g (116m) ball from **0845 003 0775**, www.wool4less.co.uk

HO HO HO! BUNTING (p37)

Measurements & sizes

Height: 11cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: DMC Natura Just Cotton, shades (A) 61 Crimson, (B) 01 Ibiza, (C) 48 Chartreuse, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 2.75mm straight, 2.75mm double-pointed

Ribbon: white, red or green, 2m

Sewing needle

Thread: red, white

Felt squares: red, white, 30cm

Pearl beads: 4mm, 16

CUTLERY HOLDERS (p39)

Measurements & sizes

Striped boot: 6cm x 17cm

Cabled boot: 7cm x 15cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: James C. Brett DK with Merino in shades (A) DM1 White, (B) DM5 Red, one 100g ball of each

Needles: 4mm double-pointed

Stitch markers

Cable needle

Tension Square

22 sts x 30 rows blocked

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

Holly Teacosy

Charmaine Fletcher's gorgeous cosy will keep your cuppa toasty while you unwrap gifts

Start knitting here

COSY

NOTE: yarn information is on page 32

Using 3.75mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 90 sts using cable cast-on method and leaving a long tail.

Join in the rnd, being careful not to twist sts. Pm for start of rnd

□ Rnds 1-3: k

□ Rnd 4: p

These four rows form hem

Change to 4mm dpns

□ Rnd 5: (k1, p1) to end

□ Rnd 6: (p1, k1) to end

□ Rnd 7-8: as Rows 5-6

□ Rnd 9-12: k

□ Rnd 13: k2, mb, * k4, mb (see Knitwise), rep from * to last two sts, k2

□ Rnd 14: k

FRONT AND BACK (both alike)

Change to 4mm straight needles
Placing second group of 45 sts on holder for Back, work on first 45 sts only for Front (inc a slip-stitch aperture border) as folls:

□ Row 15 (RS): sl 1 kwise, p1, k to end

□ Row 16: sl 1 pwise, k1, p to last two sts, k1, p1

□ Rep Rows 15-16 a further

14 times and Row 15 once more

□ Rep on second group of 45 sts

Beg with first group of sts, commence working in the rnd on 4mm dpns as folls:

□ Rnds 46-47: k

Pm as folls:

□ Front: pm between sts 8/9, 23/24 and 38/39

□ Back: pm between sts 53/54, 68/69 and 83/84

□ Rnd 48: k6, * s2kpo, k12, rep from * to last nine sts, s2kpo, k6. 78 sts

□ Rnds 49-50: k

□ Rnd 51: k5, * s2kpo, k10, rep from * to last eight sts, s2kpo, k5. 66 sts

□ Rnds 52-53: k

□ Rnd 54: k4, * s2kpo, k8, rep from * to last seven sts, s2kpo, k4. 54 sts

□ Rnd 55: k

□ Rnd 56: k3, * s2kpo, k6, rep from * to last six sts, s2kpo, k3. 42 sts

□ Rnd 57: k2, * s2kpo, k4, rep from * to last five sts, s2kpo, k2. 30 sts
Change to 3mm dpns

□ Rnd 58: k1, * s2kpo, k2 rep from * to last four sts, s2kpo, k1. 18 sts

□ Rnd 59: (s2kpo) to end. Six sts

□ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

To finish, mb using 4mm dpns and lifting a st from inside a dec st

HOLLY MOTIF

BASE

Using 3.75mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 21 sts using thumb method. Join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for start of rnd

□ Rnd 1: k

□ Rnd 2: p

Change to 3mm dpns

□ Rnds 3-4: k

□ Rnd 5: (s2kpo) to end. Seven sts

□ Cut yarn leaving a long tail, thread through rem sts twice, pull tight and fasten off

Secure on WS but do not cut.

Neaten cast-on edge. Weave in ends

BERRIES (make one set)

Using 3mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on five sts

□ Row 1 (WS): p to end

□ Row 2: k1, mb, mb, mb, k1

□ Row 3: p2tog, p1,

p2tog. Three sts

□ Row 4: k to end

□ Row 5: p to end

□ Row 6: k1, mb, k1, do not turn,

transfer sts back on to LH needle,

still with RS facing use RH needle to slip two sts kwise, k1, pass two slipped sts over. One st

□ Fasten off

LEAVES (make three)

Using 3mm dpns and yarn C, cast on three sts using thumb method

□ Make an i-cord for four rows

Change to 3mm straight needles

□ Row 5 (RS): k1, m1r, k1, m1l, k1. Five sts

□ Row 6: p1, k1, p1, k1, p1

□ Row 7: k1, m1r, k3, m1l,

k1. Seven sts

□ Row 8: p1, k2, p1, k2, p1

□ Row 9: k1, m1r, k to last st, m1l, k1. Nine sts

□ Row 10: p1, k3, p1, k3, p1

□ Row 11: sl 1 p-wise, cast off three sts pwise, k to end. Six sts

□ Row 12: sl 1 pwise, cast off three sts kwise, p to end. Three sts

□ Rep Rows 5-12 once more

□ Row 21 (RS): k1, m1r, k1, m1l, k1. Five sts

□ Row 22: p1, k1, p1, k1, p1

□ Row 23: k1, s2kpo, k1, do not turn, transfer rem three sts back

on to LH needle, still with RS facing use RH needle to slip two sts kwise, k1, then use tip of LH needle to pass two slipped sts over. One st

□ Fasten of

To make up

COSY

Weave in ends and block. Sew hem in place on WS. Block and leave to dry. Pin base in place and sew.



DECORATION

For Leaves, weave in leaf tip yarn tails on back, secure and trim. Arrange stems using image as guide and sew together at bottom. For each leaf, draw yarn tail up through i-cord stem,



meet our
DESIGNER

"Tea from a suitably festive pot will really prepare everyone for the excitement of Christmas day!"

CHARMAINE FLETCHER

down into base, secure, weave in and trim. For Berries, use cast-on yarn tail to shape berry cluster so that edges curl in, bobble stands out and top bobble is secured to lower middle one. Draw tail along cast-on edge to middle (behind lower middle berry), up through it and top berry and down again on the WS (invisibly). Using cast-off yarn tail, draw it down back of the work to centre, secure but do not cut. Once shaping is complete, both yarn tails should be at back of work ready to sew berry cluster onto base just covering ends of stalks

KNITWISE

Oodles of bobbles

Bobbles can be used in all sorts of patterns and they're easier than they look. Here's how to make one

- Row 1 (RS): (k1 tbl, yfwd, k1 tbl, yfwd, k1 tbl) all into same st. Five sts
- Row 2: p
- Row 3: k
- Row 4: p2tog, p1, p2tog. Three sts
- Row 5: sl 2, k1, p2sso. One st

"Add a red pompom to the top of your cosy instead of a bobble for an extra special festive flourish"

LK Editorial Assistant, **Isobel Smith**



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Ho Ho Ho

This jolly garland by **Lynne Rowe** is worked in garter stitch with minimal shaping

Start knitting here

LETTER H (make three)

LOWER LEG 1

NOTE: yarn information is on page 34

Using 2.75mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on nine sts

- Work 24 rows in garter st, turn and cast on five sts using two-needle cast on method. 14 sts
- Cut yarn, leaving a 10cm tail then slide sts to bottom of needle and leave ready for lower leg

LOWER LEG 2

Using 2.75mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on nine sts on same needle

- Work 24 rows in garter st
- Row 25 (joining row): k9 sts from Lower Leg 2 then k across 14 sts from Lower Leg 1. 23 sts
- Rows 26-36: work 11 rows in garter st
- Row 37: k9, cast off next five sts, k to end, turn

Work on first nine sts only

UPPER LEG 1

- Work 23 rows in garter st

- Cast off

UPPER LEG 2

- With WS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts and work 23 rows in garter st
- Cast off
- Weave all ends into WS and use yarn ends to neaten central cast on and cast off sts

FELT BACK

Use knitted letter as template to cut out red felt letter, then trim off 5mm around felt letter so that it is smaller than knitted letter. Pin to back of knitted letter and slip stitch in place with red sewing thread

LETTER O (make three)

Using 2.75mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on 17 sts

- Rows 1-2: k
- Row 3: k1, kfb, k to last two sts, kfb, k1. 19 sts
- Row 4: k
- Rows 5-8: rep Rows 3-4 twice more. 23 sts
- Rows 9-12: k
- Row 13: k9, cast off next five sts, k to end, turn

Work on first nine sts only

LEFT SIDE

- Work 35 rows in garter st, turn and cast on five sts using two-needle cast on method
- Cut yarn, leaving a 10cm end then slide sts to bottom of needle and leave ready for right side

RIGHT SIDE

- With WS facing, rejoin yarn to second nine sts, and work 35 rows in garter st
- Row 36 (joining row): k across sts from Right side then k across all sts from Left side. 23 sts
- Rows 37-41: k
- Row 42: k1, k2tog, k to last three sts, k2tog, k1. 21 sts
- Row 43: k
- Rows 44-47: rep Rows 41-42 twice more. 17 sts
- Cast off
- Weave ends into WS and use yarn ends to neaten up the central cast on and cast off sts

FELT BACK

Using white felt and thread, work as for Letter H

MISTLETOE

LEAVES (make eight)

Using 2.75mm straight needles and yarn C, cast on three sts

- Row 1: kfb, k1, kfb. Five sts
- Row 2: k
- Row 3: k1, kfb, k1, kfb, k1. Seven sts
- Rows 5-11: work in garter st

ABOUT THE YARN

DMC Natura Just Cotton is a pure cotton yarn with a smooth matte finish which comes in a brilliant range of shades and is super easy to work with. It costs £2.99 per 50g (155m) ball from www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

- Row 12: k1, k2tog, k to end. Six sts
- Row 13: k
- Rows 14-19: rep Rows 12-13 three times more. Three sts
- Rows 20-25: work in garter st
- Cast off

STEM

- Using 2.75mm dpns and yarn C, cast on three sts and work an i-cord for 12 rows (see Knitwise on page 33)
- Cast off

To make up

Place two mistletoe leaves together at cast-off edge, one leaf with RS uppermost and one leaf with WS uppermost. Stitch together then stitch four beads where leaves are joined. Stitch stem to WS of centre top of mistletoe. Using image as guide, place letters along ribbon, spaced with mistletoe. Use whip stitch to attach to ribbon



"The faux mistletoe balances the knitted letters and prevents the garland twisting"

LK Editorial Assistant, Molly Todd



James C. Brett

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JB331

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Cutlery Holders

Designed by **Kelly Menzies**, these quirky table decs will delight your guests on Christmas day

Start knitting here

CABLED STOCKING

NOTE: yarn information is on page 34

Using 4mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 32 sts, join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd

□ Work in a 2x2 rib for 8cm

Change to yarn B

□ Inc rnd: (k8, m1) to end. 36 sts

□ Rnds 1-4: p3, k4, p3, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p3, k4

□ Rnd 5: p3, C4F, p3, C4F, C4B, p1, k1, p1, C4F, C4B, p3, C4B

□ Rnd 6: as Rnd 1

□ Rep Rnds 1-6 once more

HEEL FLAP

NOTE: Commence working flat instead of in the rnd

□ Row 1: k8, turn, p13 (work back and forth on these 13 sts for the

heel flap)

Place rem 23 sts on holder

□ Row 1: sl 1, k to end

□ Row 2: sl 1, p to end

□ Rep Rows 1-2 twice more

TURN THE HEEL

□ Row 1: k7, ssk, k1, turn

□ Row 2: p3, p2tog, p1, turn

□ Row 3: k4, ssk, k1, turn

□ Row 4: p5, p2tog, p1, turn

□ Row 5: k6, ssk

□ Row 6: p6, p2tog. Seven sts

REJOINING THE HEEL

NOTE: Commence working in the rnd once more

□ Using 4mm dpns and yarn A, k across seven heel sts, pick up and k six sts down left side of heel flap, (p2, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p2) from holder, pick up and k six sts up right side of heel flap, k3 from first six sts, pm to mark beg of rnd. 42 sts

INSTEP

Distribute sts across three needles as folls: N1: 11 sts, N2: 21 sts, N3: ten sts

□ Rnd 1: k9, ssk, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k2tog, k8. 40 sts

□ Rnd 2: k10, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k9

□ Rnd 3: k8, ssk, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k2tog, k7. 38 sts

□ Rnd 4: k9, p1, C4F, C4B, p3, C4F, C4B, p1, k8

□ Rnd 5: k7, ssk, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k2tog, k6. 36 sts

□ Rnd 6: k8, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k7

□ Rnd 7: k6, ssk, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k2tog, k5. 34 sts

□ Rnd 8: k7, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k6

□ Rnd 9: k5, ssk, p1, C4F, C4B, p1, k1, p1, C4F, C4B, p1, k2tog, k4. 32 sts

□ Rnd 10: k6, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k5

□ Rnds 11-14: k6, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k5

□ Rnd 15: k6, p1, C4F, C4B, p1, k1, p1, C4F, C4B, p1, k5

□ Rnd 16: k6, p1, k8, p1, k1, p1, k8, p1, k5

ABOUT THE YARN

James C. Brett DK with Merino comprises 70% acrylic, 20% polyamide and 10% merino, and is a fantastic value, hardwearing yarn. It has an RRP of £3.29 per 100g (290m) ball. For stockists, call **01274 565959** or visit www.jamescbrett.co.uk



Find the striped sock pattern on page 73

TOE

Distribute sts across three needles as folls: N1: eight sts, N2: 16 sts, N3: eight sts

□ Rnd 1: (k1, ssk, k11, k2tog) twice. 28 sts

□ Rnd 2: (k1, ssk, k9, k2tog) twice. 24 sts

□ Rnd 3: (k1, ssk, k7, k2tog) twice. 20 sts

□ Rnd 4: (k1, ssk, k5, k2tog) twice. 16 sts

□ Rnd 5: (k1, ssk, k3, k2tog) twice. 12 sts

□ Cast off

To make up

Turn stocking inside out. Sew toe and weave in loose ends. Turn right way out and block to measurements. Fold ribbed edging over **LK**

Measurements & sizes

Size (approx): 0-6 mths
(6-18 mths, 2-7 yrs)
To fit head circumference (cm):
40 (45, 50)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Sublime Baby Cashmere
Merino Silk DK, shade 358 Little
Piggy, 1 (1, 2) 50g balls
Needles: 3.25mm dpns, 4mm dpns
Buttons: leather shanked,
2.5mm, two
Safety toy stuffing, free with this
issue of Let's Knit
Stitch markers

Tension Square

22 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Sublime Baby Cashmere
Merino Silk DK blends 75%
wool with 20% silk and 5%
cashmere for a soft, luxurious
yarn. It comes in 45 fabulous
colours and can be machine
washed at 30°C.

Need an Alternative?

Sirdar Snuggly DK is a great
wool-free staple, comprising
55% acrylic and 45% nylon.
It's machine washable and can
also be tumble dried. Choose
from over 45 shades.

Let's Shop

Sublime Baby Cashmere Merino
Silk DK costs £4.84 per 50g
(116m) ball from 0845 003
0775, www.wool4less.co.uk
Sirdar Snuggly DK costs £3.10
per 50g (175m) ball from 01924
565740, www.woolnstuff.co.uk

Little Piglet

Knit Jane Burns' adorable hat for babies and kids!

How cute does little Sofia look in this fun hat! It's really quick and simple to knit so you can easily whip it up in time for Christmas. As it's worked in the round, there'll be no uncomfortable seams. For safety reasons, the button eyes can be substituted for felt circles, if you wish. The sizes range from newborn to aged seven so all your little piggy-wigs can have one!

Start knitting here

HAT

Using 3.25mm dpns and long tail
method, cast on 80 (90, 100) sts,
join into the rnd taking care not to
twist sts, pm for beg of rnd
☐ Rnd 1: * k1, p1, rep from * to end
☐ Rnd 2: * p1, k1, rep from * to end
☐ Rep Rnds 1-2 four times in total
Change to 4mm dpns
☐ Working in st st (k every rnd)
until work meas 11 (12, 13.5) cm
from cast-on edge

CROWN SHAPING

☐ Rnd 1: * k6 (7, 8), k2tog, rep from
* to end. 70 (80, 90) sts
☐ Rnds 2-3: k
☐ Rnd 4: * k5 (6, 7), k2tog, rep from
* to end. 60 (70, 80) sts
☐ Rnd 5: * k4 (5, 6), k2tog, rep
from * to end. 50 (60, 70) sts
☐ Rnd 6: * k3 (4, 5), k2tog, rep
from * to end. 40 (50, 60) sts
☐ Rnd 7: * k2 (3, 4), k2tog, rep from
* to end. 30 (40, 50) sts
☐ Rnd 8: * k1 (2, 3), k2tog, rep from
* to end. 20 (30, 40) sts

SECOND AND THIRD SIZES ONLY

☐ Next rnd: * k- (1, 2), k2tog, rep
from * to end. - (20, 30) sts

THIRD SIZE ONLY

☐ Next rnd: * k1, k2tog, rep from
* to end. - (-, 20) sts

ALL SIZES

☐ Next rnd: [k2tog] to end. 10 (10,
10) sts
☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, pull tight
and fasten off

EARS (make four)

Using 3.25mm dpns, cast on 19 sts

NOTE: Ears are worked flat instead of in the rnd

☐ Row 1: sl 1, k to end
☐ Row 2: sl 1, p to end
☐ Rows 3-4: rep Rows 1-2
☐ Row 5: sl 1, ssk, k to last three
sts, k2tog, k1. 17 sts
☐ Row 6: sl 1, p to end
☐ Rep Rows 5-6 until five sts rem
☐ Next row: sl 1, sl 2, k1, p2sso,
k1. Three sts
☐ Next row: p3tog. One st
☐ Fasten off



meet our
DESIGNER

"With the weather getting colder, our attention turns to cute accessories we can make for our loved ones. This piggy hat will delight the wearer and its audience alike, with its big friendly eyes and comedic nose!"

JANE BURNS

Great
gift for
kids

knitwise

Flat pack

If you didn't want to knit this hat in the round, you can make some adjustments and work the pattern in rows on straight needles. First, cast on two more stitches than given for your size. When working stocking stitch, remember to purl the even-numbered rows. On decrease rows, knit or purl one stitch at each end of the row for your selvedge and work the given instructions in between these two stitches.

"We'd love to see pictures of your little ones in this cute hat – share your photos on Facebook and Twitter, you can find us @letsknitmag"

LK Editorial Assistant **Isobel Smith**

With WS facing, sew two Ear pieces together to form one Ear. Rep for final two pieces

SNOUT

Using 3.25mm dpns, cast on 56 sts evenly over three needles, join into the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd

□ Rnds 1-5: k

□ Rnd 6: p

□ Rnd 7: k

□ Rnd 8: * k5, k2tog, rep from * to end. 48 sts

□ Rnd 9: * k4, k2tog, rep from * to end. 40 sts

□ Rnd 10: * k3, k2tog, rep from

* to end. 32 sts

□ Rnd 11: * k2, k2tog, rep from

* to end. 24 sts

□ Rnd 12: * k1, k2tog, rep from

* to end. 16 sts

□ Rnd 13: * k2tog, rep from

* to end. Eight sts

□ Cut yarn leaving a tail, pull tight and fasten off

To make up

Weave in ends. Pin Ears to side of hat using image as a guide and sew in place. Stitch Snout to front of Hat, adding a small amount of stuffing. Sew eyes securely in place **LK**



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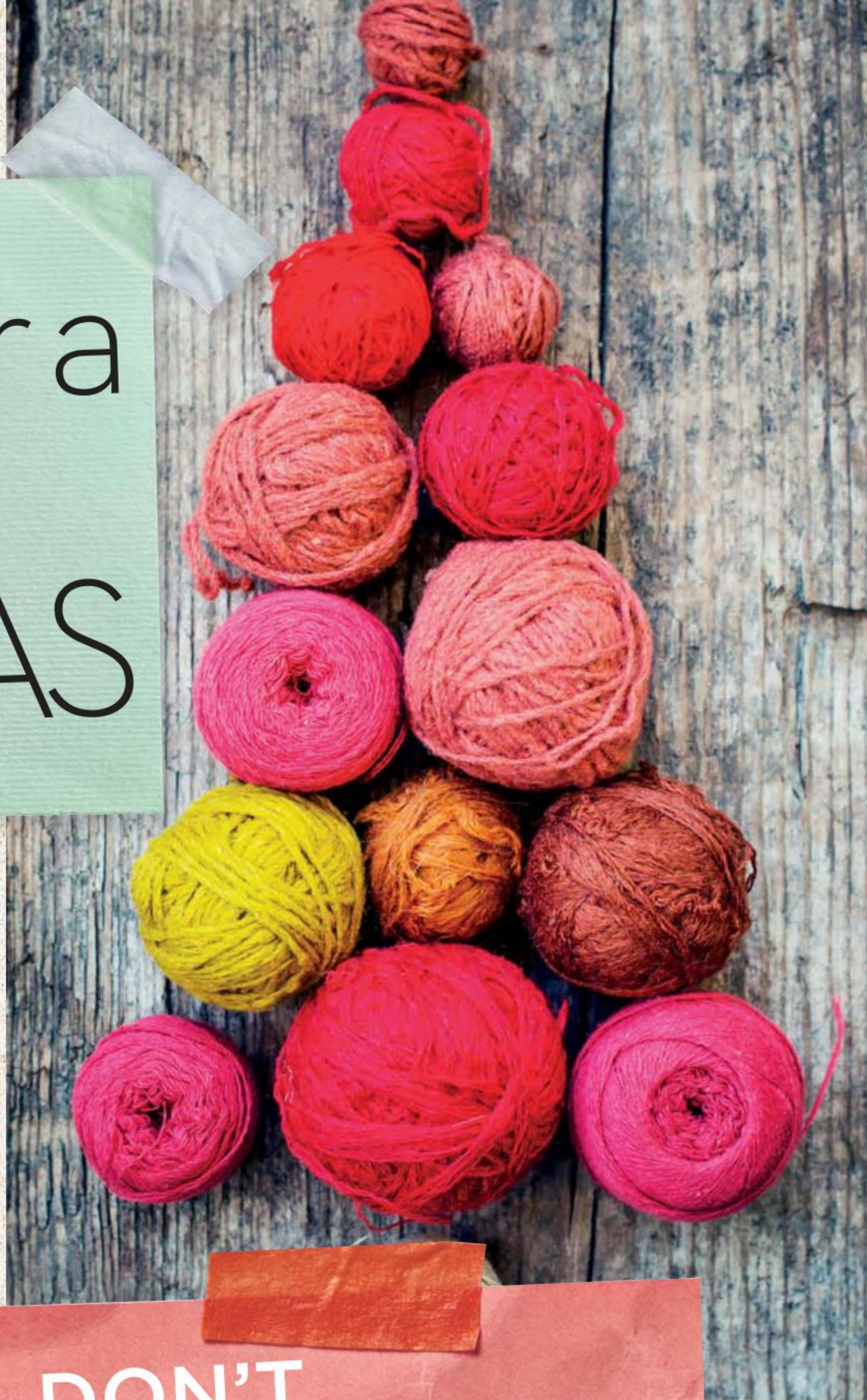


www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

TOP TIPS for a *Stress-free* CHRISTMAS

OUR FESTIVE DOS AND DON'TS WILL MAKE SURE YOUR GIFT KNITTING GOES WITHOUT A HITCH

There's a lot to think about at Christmastime – food, travel, family – and when you throw a long list of knitted gifts into the mix, it can be a little overwhelming. Many of us end up frantically weaving in ends on the 24th or deciding that maybe it's better suited for their next birthday, after all. We chat to designers and your fellow knitters to find out how to avoid the Christmas Eve rush and ensure your handmade gift will be a definite hit with the recipient!



DON'T

"One year I kept putting off a project as I wasn't seeing the recipient until Boxing Day, then I ended up spending the night of the 25th trying to get it done – not easy after all that turkey and a few Christmas tipples!"

LK Deputy Editor Adrienne Chandler

Designer Tips

LK designer Lynne shares her Christmas knitting wisdom:

- 1** It's never too early to start your Christmas knitting! Whilst I prefer to put up my Christmas decorations just a few weeks before the big day, I like to start my Christmas knitting (and crochet) much earlier in the year just to make sure I'm not too rushed towards the end.
- 2** Mix and match small handknitted and crocheted gifts with local, shop-bought gifts. A knitted cotton washcloth can look great when wrapped with handmade soaps, or a knitted purse can act as gift bag for cash or a money card.
- 3** Raid your stash for odd balls of yarn to make accessories and homewares.
- 4** Make your gifts in appropriate yarns for your recipient. If you know that someone is allergic to animal fibres, use cotton or acrylic instead – they'll have no excuse not to wear your gift!
- 5** Instead of buying cards for close friends, I usually make each person a small gift that can be kept and used year after year, such as a small tree decoration, a bag charm or a small stocking filled with a chocolate. It's much more personal and doesn't need recycling in January."



DO

Remember to include care instructions with your knitted gift. No accidental felting here, please! Download our printable labels at www.letsknit.co.uk, fill them in and safety pin them to your finished make before wrapping it and presenting it with pride.

Handknitted for _____

By _____

How to look after your new knit:

☐ Hand wash
Iron on a _____ setting

☐ Machine wash at _____°C
Dry flat in the shade



Designer Tips

Knitwear and crochet designer and author of Simple Colour Knitting (p67) Erika Knight

"Quick, achievable knits are essential when planning gifts; you have to be realistic and know what you can achieve in the time frame. I like to choose a favourite pattern that I have already knitted several times and simply customise it, perhaps by adding a pocket, Swiss embroidering an initial or motif, or adding ribbons and buttons.

I do have to be careful with this though – as I am sure I am guilty of the ultimate Christmas knitter's faux pas in giving the same person the same knitted gift two years in a row! They are usually too kind to tell me they already have three snoods!"

Erika's design catalogue includes lots of great gift ideas, including this charming teacosy. It's part of her exclusive John Lewis collection – get the pattern for £2, from **03456 049049**, www.johnlewis.com. Find out more at www.erikaknight.co.uk



Be inspired!

Download all these patterns for FREE at www.letsknit.co.uk. Write in who you're going to make them for and that's five projects planned already!

Men's fine knitted tie.

Perfect for



Lace edged shawl

Yes! Now

is sorted!



Oliver the Teddy

Great for



Fabulous Fair Isle mittens,

will love these!



Scandi Christmas Cushion

I'll make this for



DO

"Ask the intended recipient what they would like. Be bold. Some people just don't wear sweaters but love your homemade socks"

Pam Lathwood

DON'T

"Last year I was crocheting a cow for my brother at 3am Christmas morning! I fell asleep in the end and I still haven't finished it now 9 months later!"

Lauren Spencer



DO Relax – it's your favourite hobby after all!

We asked you...

What's your favourite gift to knit for friends and family? Let us know your views on Facebook and Twitter @letsknitmag



"I like to give tissue box covers as gifts so I know they will be used. I make them personalised for the person they are for. I have fun trying to find out what they like so I can add that to the gift."

Karen Inglis

"I have knitted & crocheted flower brooches which can be worn on hats, scarves, bags or jackets. They seem to be popular."

@sheppeydragon



"Last year I knitted blue nose teddies, pigs, and night owls. I also made several personalised dolls for my hoola-hooping friends – I did them to look like the person themselves and to match the colour of their hoop."

Nikki Heard

Measurements & sizes

16.5cm x 80cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rooster Almerino DK, shade Pier, two 50g balls

Needles: 4mm

Safety Pin

Tension Square

21 sts x 28 rows

10cm x 10cm

stocking stitch

4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rooster Almerino DK is a wonderfully soft mix of 50% baby alpaca and 50% merino wool, with a tight twist that makes for great stitch definition. It has an RRP of £5.75 per (113m) 50g ball for stockists call 01829 740903 www.roosteryarns.com

Need an Alternative?

Jenny Watson Pure Merino DK is a great value pure wool yarn that's beautifully soft and comes in a number of subtle colours that are perfect for this project. It costs £3.35 from 0845 003 0775 www.wool4less.co.uk

Easy Elegance

A lace scarf makes a fabulous Christmas gift, and Siân Brown's pattern is a breeze to master

Knitted in luxurious DK yarn and costing less than £12 to make, this scarf is an ideal gift knit that will be loved for many years. After just a few rows you won't even need to look at the pattern, it's that easy! The pretty shell edging and flower fastening finish things off perfectly.

LACE PATTERN

- ☐ Row 1: k1, (k1, yfwd, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yfwd) to last st, k1
- ☐ Row 2: p
- ☐ Row 3: (k1, yfwd, k2, ssk, k2tog, k2, yfwd) to last two sts, k2
- ☐ Rows 4-6: p

Start knitting here

SCARF

Using 4mm needles, cast on 42 sts

- ☐ K two rows
- ☐ Working first and last two sts on each row as k sts, work Rows 1-6 of Lace pattern on rem 38 sts, until Scarf meas 80cm, ending after a Row 6
- ☐ K two rows
- ☐ Cast off

SHELL EDGING

(make two)

Using 4mm needles and thumb method, cast on 68 sts

- ☐ Row 1 (RS): p
- ☐ Row 2: k2, * k1, sl this st back to LH needle, lift next eight sts on LH needle over this st and off needle, (yfwd) twice, k first st again, k2, rep from * to end
- ☐ Row 3: k1, * p2tog, drop loops of two sts made in prev row to create one long loop and (k1, k1 tbl) twice into it, p1, rep from * to last st, k1
- ☐ K one row
- ☐ Cast off

FLOWER

Using 4mm needles, cast on 49 sts

- ☐ Rows 1-6: beg with a k row, work in st st
- ☐ Row 7: k1, * k2, pass first st over second st, rep from * to end. 25 sts
- ☐ Row 2: (p2tog) to last st, p1. 13 sts
- ☐ Row 3: k1, (k2tog) to end. Seven sts



"This scarf is fairly short, and the lace pattern grows quickly, so you'll easily have it finished in time for Christmas!"

Siân Brown LK Designer

TWO-BALL LACE SCARF

□ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

To make up

Block all pieces (see page 94), making sure Shell edging fits across end of Scarf. Position edging with garter stitch section over end of Scarf at both ends and and sew in place. Attach safety pin to back of Flower and use to secure to Scarf **LK**

knitwise

Swell shells

There are lots of different methods for knitting a shell edging. In this method the trickiest part is knitting into the long loop left by dropping your yarn forwards from the previous row. If it doesn't look neat when you're doing it don't despair – all should fall into place by the end of the row.



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Heads Up!

Kelly Menzies' pretty and practical headband completes a stylish winter look

Whether it's as the finishing touch to a skiing outfit or as a practical fashion accessory, this headband is ideal for providing extra warmth and a splash of colour. A perfect Christmas gift for someone young and stylish, it costs less than £5 to make and is fun to knit, too!



meet our
DESIGNER

This headband would make a quick and easy gift, plus the naturally-occurring button holes mean you don't have to worry about getting the sizing exactly right. If the headband is a little big for the wearer, just move along to the next three holes to tighten it up"

KELLY MENZIES

Measurements

6.5cm x 49cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: Katia Merino 100% DK, shade 004 Red, one 50g ball

Needles: 4mm

Buttons: medium, three

Tension Square

26 sts and 33 rows to 10cm over patt using 4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Katia Merino 100% DK is a soft, high quality yarn that comes in a wide range of fashionable colours. It has an RRP of £4.40 per 50g (102m) ball. See www.katia.com for stockists.

Start knitting here

Using 4mm needles, cast on 18 sts

□ K two rows

□ Row 1 (WS): k1, * p1, k1, p2, k1, rep from * to last two sts, p1, k1

□ Row 2: k1, * k1, p1, k1, yfwd, k1, p1, rep from * to last two sts, k2

□ Row 3: k1, * p1, k1, p3, k1, rep from * to last two sts, p1, k1

□ Row 4: k1, * k1, p1, sl 1, k2, psso, p1, rep from * to last two sts, k2

□ Rep Rows 1-4 until work meas 49 cm or length desired

□ K two rows

□ Cast off

To Make Up

Weave in loose ends and block (see page 94). Sew three buttons to one end of Headband and use eyelets on opposite end to fasten Headband **LK**



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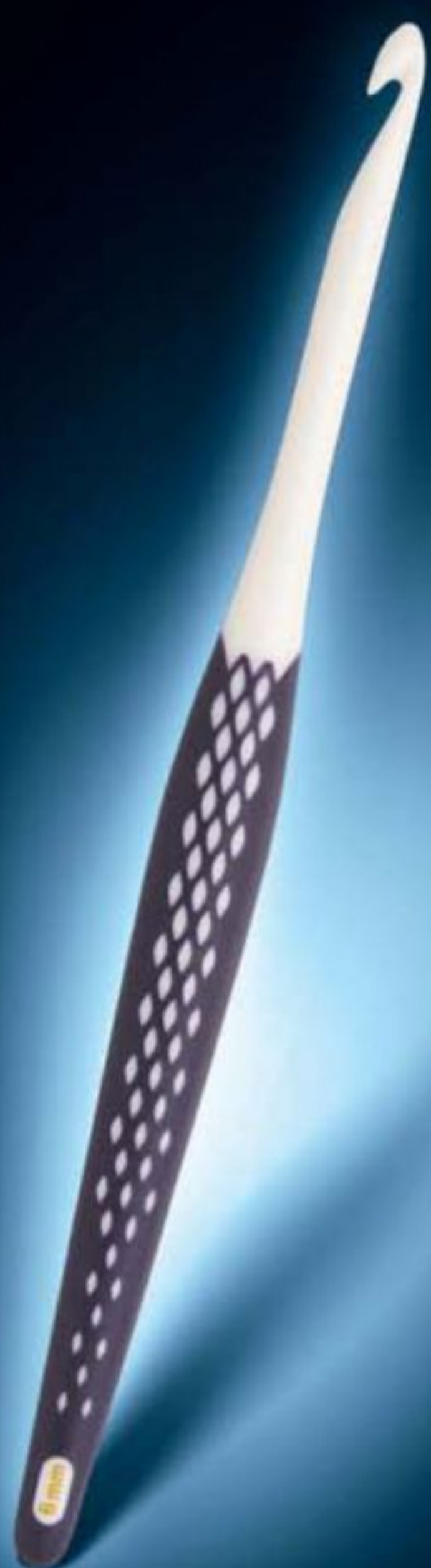
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Colour coding



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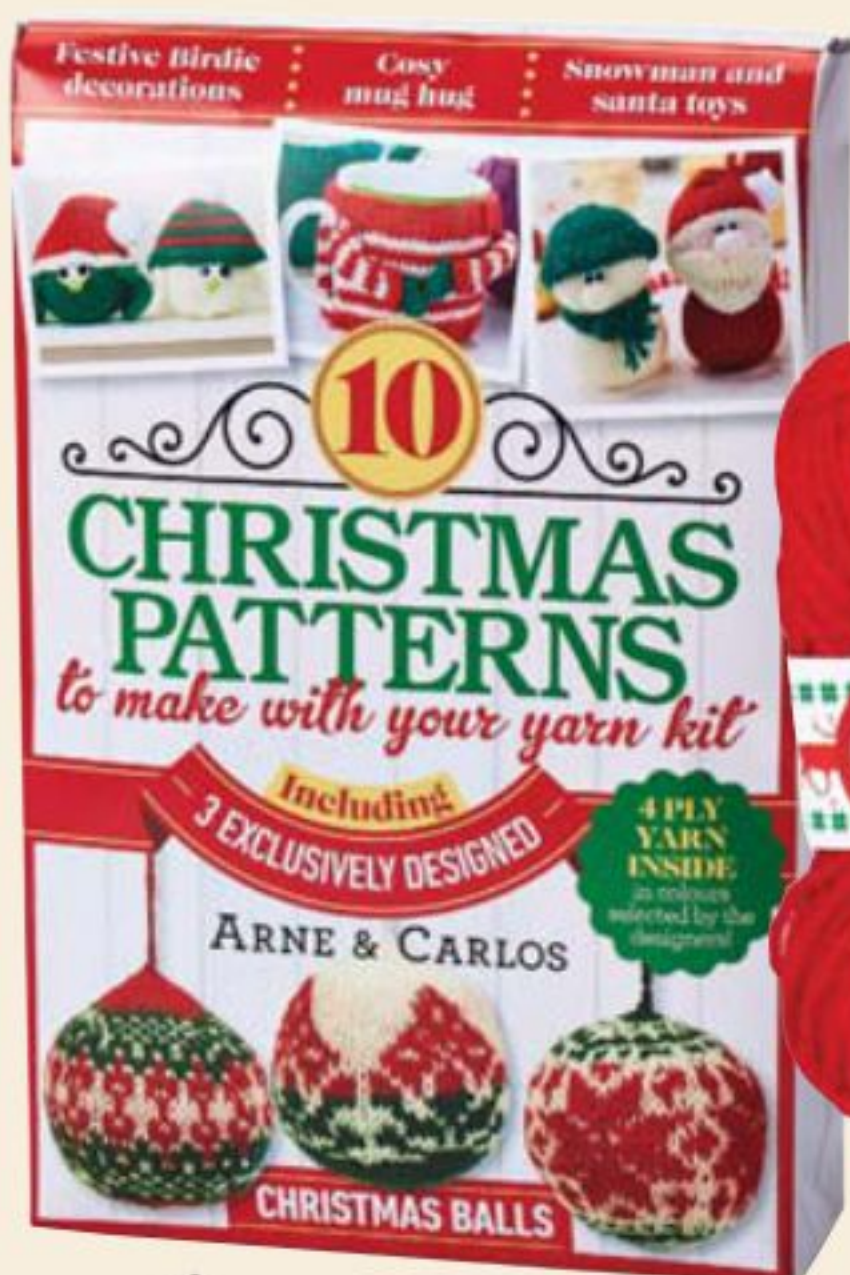
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coming up in the NEXT ISSUE OF *Let's knit*

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: • We chat to designers Arne & Carlos

• Great gift ideas for friends and family • Complete your crochet nativity set!

ON SALE FRIDAY 30th October



Star LETTER

Dear Let's Knit,

I was taught the basics of knitting as a child, but at the time I thought it was more of a chore than a hobby and it just didn't interest me. About six years ago, I was reading a novel where someone was knitting and it gave me the urge to take it up again – so I re-taught myself and not a day goes by without me picking up my knitting needles! I now have a two-year-old daughter, so I'm in my element knitting her toys. I have recently completed my daughter's Christmas present – he's called Mr Fortywinks and is from one of the wonderful Jean Greenhowe patterns. I think it's my best project to date and I am quite proud him!

I would strongly urge anyone who once tried knitting and wasn't too impressed to give it another go – it is one of the most enjoyable, relaxing and rewarding hobbies ever!

Thank you Let's Knit for such an enjoyable magazine and for the wonderful toy gifts.

Liz Westrup

Thank you for your letter, Liz – Mr Fortywinks is a cheerful character we think your daughter will love when she opens him on December 25th! Enjoy your Star Letter prize!



STOP & SHARE

STORIES AND MAKES GALORE FROM OUR WONDERFUL READERS

HERE'S WHAT YOU'VE MADE:

Star
make



"My stash-busting blanket made with the leftovers of my Let's Knit and Let's Get Crafting kits!"

Donna Vant

"Getting ready for Christmas!"

Rosie Daniels



WE ASKED
YOU ON
FACEBOOK:



What will you be knitting most of this Christmas?

10% of you said accesories for me

30% of you said accesories for gifts

40% of you said decorations

10% of you said toys

10% of you said homewares



"I finished this Gemini sweater – I love it!"

Louiseluvsyarn

"My lovely little gang"

Dawn Brown





WE ASKED ON TWITTER...

What's the most important thing to remember when knitting for other people?

HERE'S WHAT YOU SAID:

Make sure they appreciate it. E.g. A jumper takes ages to knit and they might like a scarf just as much.

@nutty_knitter

Give the ball band with care instructions as well as the knitted product.

@cats_whiska

Think of the person you're knitting for, their favourite colour – would they be more likely to wear a scarf than jumper?

@sequin_star

Get their measurements! Embarrassing when you put in all that work and it doesn't fit.

@cowtownknits

1) Will they wear/use it, 2) does it fit?

@TeaBeaKnits

Give them a little card with care instructions!

@kariebookish

To keep it clean!

@yarncadia



Why I love my local yarn shop

"My local shop is such a calming and creative place – as soon as you step in from the hubbub outside you can take a deep breath and spend ages sorting through the colours and squeezing all the lovely fibres!"

Holli Wright

Let us know why you love your local yarn shop by emailing isobel.smith@aceville.co.uk

WIN!



Our Star Letter winner will receive two felting kits from Hobbycraft.



This month, our Star Make winner has won a Hobbycraft felting kit.

Tip

OF THE MONTH

"I use all those really annoying loom bands the kids leave laying around to pair my needles up"

Samantha Smith

PRINTED TIPS WIN A £10 VOUCHER TO SPEND AT BLACK SHEEP WOOLS



"Rhubarb the huggable pup from your Christmas issue last year"

Hayley Borley

"A cosy scarf ready for winter"

Debbie Stubbs



"Our granddaughter Layla loves granny's collection of knitted toys!"

Yvonne Mather

"A puppy I made that I will treasure forever because even though I can't have a real dog, I can snuggle up with my new friend and take him everywhere, too!"

Babora Formanko



PINS AND NEEDLES

Loving our Santa kit? Make yourself a plethora of Father Christmases in time for December 25th! We've got into the festive spirit and have rounded a number of variations on the jolly fellow in all his crocheted and knitted glory. Visit our Pinterest board!



[ravelry.com](https://www.ravelry.com)



[letsknit.co.uk](https://www.letsknit.co.uk)



[etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com)

[Pinterest.com/letsknitmag](https://www.pinterest.com/letsknitmag)

Get in touch

Send us photos of your makes, tell us about your experiences, share tips or answer questions and polls.



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Send tips and letters to Let's Knit, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY

TEA Break

SETTLE DOWN WITH A CUPPA TO READ, RELAX AND TEST YOUR KNITTY KNOWLEDGE!

LET'S KNIT'S QUICK QUIZ

How much do you know about your favourite hobby? Take our fun quiz to find out!

1. Zoë Halstead's baby elf twins can be found on page 16. What are the names of their parents, featured in Let's Knit in 2013 and 2014?
2. Crochet granny squares traditionally use chains and which other stitch?
3. What name is given to yarn that is spun to create a looped effect?
4. Which of Aardman's favourite characters will be getting a Christmas special TV show this year?
5. What is it about alpaca fibres that makes them super cosy?

NAME THAT YARN

Here are three clues to our mystery yarn. Is it one that's in your stash?

- This chunky yarn is one of the most festive yarns on the market
- It blends 75% polyester and 25% lurex
- It has a glittery finish and is brilliant for textured decorations



Caption Competition

Email isobel.smith@aceville.co.uk with your caption and we'll publish the winning entry in our next issue!

Check out the answers below to see how many you got right!

Here's our favourite caption from last issue

"I knew that dropped stitch would come back to haunt me!" Congratulations to **Chloe B**



Wordplay

We've jumbled up three knitting-related words or phrases. Can you work out what they are?

- crush jam permits (9, 6)
- a row colder (4, 6)
- hem scare (8)



PURLS OF WISDOM



By Claire Thomas

When I pick up my needles only the next stitch is important

One of my best friends regularly sports a T-shirt bearing the legend, "I knit so that I don't kill people", and I've been thinking about getting one too. After all, knitting does provide an oasis of serenity in my otherwise frantic and scurried life, as I shuttle from preschool to work to the supermarket via the bank, the doctor's surgery and the gym, all the while worrying about which bit of the house is going to fall off next and what I can possibly do about Christmas this year. When I pick up my needles, only the next stitch is important. My anxious mind slows, my focus sharpens, I stop leaping three steps ahead, because I can only ever knit one stitch at a time. Unless I'm decreasing.

And so, I emerge from my time knitting soothed and healed,

the frown puckering my forehead ironed out by the miraculously calming activity of poking string through loops of more string. Renewed, I have more patience, more energy and more willingness to sit and listen. Truly, I knit so I don't kill people. I said as much to my husband, who snorted. "Don't be so daft. Knitting is always making you put your scary eyes on."

I contested this, with a certain amount of heat. Three days later, when we'd withdrawn the petition to divorce and he'd recovered from the dead arm I gave him, we agreed that I do have the occasional, entirely

justified knitting-related incident of "scary eyes". Like with people who pass on a pattern for something they've made, and then when you're struggling with sleeves that would only fit an orangutan body builder, remark blithely, "oh yes, the sleeves are all wrong. There's a list of errata on the internet."

I think it's safe to say that people who tell you about the pattern but leave you to find the errata out for yourself are the root

cause of high blood pressure in others. And that they deserve a well-placed darning needle to the bottom.

The trouble is that there are plenty of other people who yank my chain. I can't even pretend that the errata crew are the only ones. Topping my list also are, in no particular order, yarn company chief executives who make the stupid and ill-publicised decision to discontinue favourite yarns or colourways without a decent amount of warning to people who might be in the middle

"People who refuse to buy you yarn for Christmas because 'you've got quite enough as it is' really yank my chain!"



of making something - I couldn't get enough yarn to finish it, and now I'm bitter. Or public places like court waiting rooms and aeroplanes where you can't knit in case you turn out to be a violent psychopath bent on puncturing others with a 6mm steel cable needle, rather than someone who is desperately trying to finish a pair of gloves for their stepmother's birthday, and people who refuse to buy you yarn for Christmas on the grounds that you've got quite enough as it is, and why don't you use what you've got first. OF COURSE knitting makes me put my scary eyes on, when I'm faced with people like that. In fact, the miracle is surely that even though I knit, I don't kill anyone at all.

Claire Thomas is a freelance journalist and founder of Stitch 'n' Bitch group, Knit Pickers

How did you do?

Quick Quiz: 1. Bernard and Bernadette - both are available for free at www.letsknit.co.uk, 2. Shaun the Sheep, 3. cashmere, Name that yarn: King Cole Tinsel Chunky, 4. Christmas jumper, 5. wool carder, 6. Treble crochet, 7. bounce, 8. boudle, 9. boudle, 10. boudle, 11. boudle, 12. boudle, 13. boudle, 14. boudle, 15. boudle, 16. boudle, 17. boudle, 18. boudle, 19. boudle, 20. boudle, 21. boudle, 22. boudle, 23. boudle, 24. boudle, 25. boudle, 26. boudle, 27. boudle, 28. boudle, 29. boudle, 30. boudle, 31. boudle, 32. boudle, 33. boudle, 34. boudle, 35. boudle, 36. boudle, 37. boudle, 38. boudle, 39. boudle, 40. boudle, 41. boudle, 42. boudle, 43. boudle, 44. boudle, 45. boudle, 46. boudle, 47. boudle, 48. boudle, 49. boudle, 50. boudle, 51. boudle, 52. boudle, 53. boudle, 54. boudle, 55. boudle, 56. boudle, 57. boudle, 58. boudle, 59. boudle, 60. boudle, 61. boudle, 62. boudle, 63. boudle, 64. boudle, 65. boudle, 66. boudle, 67. boudle, 68. boudle, 69. boudle, 70. boudle, 71. boudle, 72. boudle, 73. boudle, 74. boudle, 75. boudle, 76. boudle, 77. boudle, 78. boudle, 79. boudle, 80. boudle, 81. boudle, 82. boudle, 83. boudle, 84. boudle, 85. boudle, 86. boudle, 87. boudle, 88. boudle, 89. boudle, 90. boudle, 91. boudle, 92. boudle, 93. boudle, 94. boudle, 95. boudle, 96. boudle, 97. boudle, 98. boudle, 99. boudle, 100. boudle





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Stripe Central

Channel the oversized trend in Jo Allport's must-have cardigan

'Boyfriend' jumpers are the perfect union of on-trend style and relaxed comfort, and this stripy pattern achieves the 'casual chic' look beautifully. With coordinating stripe colours, it's a great chance to improve your colourwork skills and learn a new decorative rib. The luxurious merino and cashmere blend is so soft you'll want to live in it!



meet our
DESIGNER

"I adore colour and stripes, and love it when I can combine these both with texture. Add an interesting rib pattern to the design and it makes it even more fun to knit. Make this cardigan in your favourite colours and you'll be wearing it all winter!"

JO ALLPORT

Measurements & sizes

Dress size: 8 (10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22)
To fit (cm): 81 (86, 91, 97, 102, 107, 112, 117)
Actual bust (cm): 89 (96, 100.5, 107, 116.5, 123, 130, 134)
Actual length to shoulder (cm): 63 (63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 68)
Actual sleeve length (cm): 43.5 (46.5, 46.5, 47.5, 46.5, 48.5, 47.5, 48.5)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran, shades (A) 47 Aqua, 5 (6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 8) 50g balls, (B) 09 Grey, 6 (6, 6, 6, 7, 7, 7, 8, 8) 50g balls, (C) 56 Mallard, one 50g ball
Needles: 4.5mm and 5mm straight, 4.5mm circular
Stitch holder
Buttons, 13 (13, 14, 15, 15, 16, 17, 17)

Tension Square

17.5 sts x 25 rows
 10cm x 10cm
 stripe pattern
 5mm needles

21 sts x 28 rows
 10cm x 10cm
 rib pattern
 4.5mm needles

Special abbreviations

RL/LT: see Knitwise

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran is an incredibly soft blend of cashmere, merino and microfibre which is machine washable up to 30°C.

Need an Alternative?

Sublime Extra Fine Merino Worsted is a 100% merino yarn in an aran weight which is super soft and easy to work with.

Let's Shop

Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran costs £4.45 per 50g (90m) ball from 01829 740903, www.laughinghens.com

Sublime Extra Fine Merino Worsted costs £4.99 per 50g (100m) ball from 0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.com

Start knitting here

BACK

Using 4.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on 78 (85, 88, 94, 99, 102, 108, 115) sts
 Work in foll rib patt:
☐ Row 1 (RS): k2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3), * p1, k2, p1, RT, k1, rep from * to last 6 (6, 4, 7, 6, 4, 7, 7) sts, p1, k2, p1, k2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3)
☐ Rows 2 and 4: p2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3), k1, p2, k1, * p3, k1, p2, k1, rep from * to last 2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3) sts, p2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3)
☐ Row 3: k2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3), * p1, k2, p1, k1, LT, rep from * to last 6 (6, 4, 7, 6, 4, 7, 7) sts, p1, k2, p1, k2 (2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 3)
☐ Rep Rows 1-4 for a total of 28 (27, 28, 28, 27, 28, 28, 27) rows. For second, fifth and eighth sizes only work foll adjustment row (WS): dec one st, patt to end. 78 (84, 88, 94, 98, 102, 108, 114) sts
 Change to yarn B and 5mm needles
☐ Rows 1 - 12: work in st st using yarn B
☐ Row 13 - 14: work in st st using yarn A
☐ Rows 15 - 16: work in garter st using yarn C
☐ Rows 17 - 20: rep Rows 13-16
☐ Row 21 - 28: work in st st using yarn A
 These 28 rows form patt
☐ Rep Rows 1-28 twice more ending with a WS row
 Change to yarn B and working in st st shape armholes as folls:
☐ Cast off 3 (3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7) sts at beg of next two rows
☐ Dec one st in first and last st of next and every RS row until 66 (68, 70, 72, 76, 78, 80, 82) sts rem
☐ Cont without shaping until armhole meas 19 (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 24) cm from start of armhole shaping, ending after a WS row
☐ Cast off 11 (11, 12, 12, 14, 15, 15, 16) sts at beg of next two rows
 Place rem 44 (46, 46, 48, 48, 48, 50, 50) sts on stitch holder

LEFT FRONT

** Using 4.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on 38 (41, 43, 45, 48, 50, 52, 55) sts
 Work in foll rib patt:
☐ Row 1 (RS): k3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1), * p1, k2, p1, RT, k1, rep from * to last 7 (5, 6, 7, 5, 6, 7, 5) sts, p1, k2, p1, k3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1)
☐ Rows 2 and 4: p3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1), k1, p2, k1, * p3, k1, p2, k1, rep from * to last 3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1) sts, p3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1)
☐ Row 3: k3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1), * p1, k2, p1, k1, LT, rep from * to last 7 (5,

6, 7, 5, 6, 7, 5) sts, p1, k2, p1, k3 (1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1)
☐ Rep Rows 1-4 for a total of 28 rows
☐ Change to yarn B and 5mm needles and work in colour sequence as for Back, working 84 rows as before and ending after a WS row
 ** Change to yarn B and working in st st, shape armholes as folls:
☐ Cast off 3 (3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7) sts at beg of next row
☐ Work one row
☐ Dec one st at armhole edge of next and every RS row until there are 32 (33, 34, 34, 37, 38, 38, 39) sts
☐ Cont without shaping until armhole meas 5 (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10) cm, meas from start of armhole shaping and ending after a RS row
☐ Cast off 6 (6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8) sts at beg of next row
☐ Dec one st at neck edge of every row for ten rows, then dec one st at neck edge of every RS row until 11 (11, 12, 12, 14, 15, 15, 16) sts rem
☐ Cont without shaping until front meas same as Back to shoulders and ending after a WS row
☐ Cast off

RIGHT FRONT

☐ Work ** to ** as for Left front
 Change to yarn yarn B and cont in st st as folls:
☐ Work one row (ending after a RS row)
 Shape armholes as folls:
☐ Cast off 3 (3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7) sts at beg of next row
☐ Work one row
☐ Dec one st at armhole edge of next and every WS row until 32 (33, 34, 34, 37, 38, 38, 39) sts rem
☐ Cont without shaping until armhole meas 5 (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10) cm, meas from start of armhole shaping and ending after a WS row
☐ Cast off 6 (6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 8, 8) sts at beg of next row
☐ Dec one st at neck edge of every row for ten rows, then dec one st at neck edge of every WS until 11 (11, 12, 12, 14, 15, 15, 16) sts rem
☐ Cont without shaping until front meas same as Back to shoulders and ending with a RS row
☐ Cast off

SLEEVES (make two)

☐ Using 4.5mm needles and yarn A, cast on 36 (38, 39, 39, 41, 41, 43, 43) sts
 Work in foll rib
☐ Row 1 (RS): k2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2), * p1, k2, p1, RT, k1, rep from * to last 6 (7, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6) sts, p1, k2, p1, k2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2)
☐ Rows 2 and 4: p2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2), k1, p2, k1, * p3, k1, p2, k1, rep from * to last 2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2) sts, p2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2)
☐ Row 3: k2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2), * p1, k2, p1, k1, LT, rep from * to last 6 (7, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6) sts, p1, k2, p1, k2 (3, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2)
☐ Rep Rows 1-4 for a total of 28 rows
☐ Change to 5mm needles and yarn B and work 84 rows of colour sequence as for back and then 0 (8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 12, 12) rows in st st, **AT THE SAME TIME** inc one st at each end of 5th and every foll 6th (6th, 6th, 6th, 5th, 5th, 5th, 5th) row until there are 62 (64, 67, 69, 73, 75, 79, 79) sts

SHAPE ARM TOPS

☐ Cast off 3 (3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7) sts at beg of next two rows. 56 (58, 59, 59, 63, 63, 67, 65) sts
☐ Dec one st at each end of next 4 (5, 6, 4, 6, 6, 7, 6) rows
☐ Dec one st at each end of next and every other row for a total of 10 (6, 4, 10, 6, 6, 6, 8) rows
☐ Dec one st at each end of next 4 (5, 6, 5, 7, 7, 8, 7) rows. 30 (32, 31, 31, 31, 31, 31, 31) sts
☐ Cast off ten sts at beg of next two rows
☐ Cast off
 Sew both shoulder seams

NECKBAND

☐ Using 4.5mm circular needles and yarn A with RS facing, pick up and k 37 (36, 36, 37, 37, 37, 38, 38) sts along right neck, k 44 (46, 46, 48, 48, 48, 50, 50) Back sts, then pick up and k 37 (36, 36, 37, 37, 37, 38, 38) sts along left neck. 118 (118, 118, 122, 122, 122, 126, 126) sts
 Work in rib as folls:
☐ Rows 1 and 3 (WS): k0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2), p1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3), k1, p2,

"Pair this boyfriend cardie with relaxed jeans to nail the casual chic look!"

LK Editorial Assistant **Isobel Smith**

k1, * p3, k1, p2, k1, rep from * to last 1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 5, 5) sts, p1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3), k0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2)

□ Row 2: p0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2), k1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3), * p1, k2, p1, k1, LT, rep from * to last 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 9, 9) sts, p1, k2, p1, k1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3), p0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2)

□ Row 4: p0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2), k1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3), * p1, k2, p1, RT, k1, rep from * to last 5 (5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 9, 9) sts, p1, k2, p1, k1 (1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3), p0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2)

□ Rep Rows 1-4 once more

□ Cast off all sts kwise with WS facing

BUTTONBAND

□ Using 4.5mm needles and yarn A with RS facing, pick up and k 90 (90, 97, 104, 104, 111, 118, 118) sts down Left front

□ Rows 1 and 3 (WS): p1, k1, * p3, k1, p2, k1, rep from * to last four sts, p3, k1

□ Row 2: p1, * k1, LT, p1, k2, p1, rep from * to last five sts, k1, LT, p1, k1

□ Row 4: p1, * RT, k1, p1, k2, p1, rep from * to last five sts, RT, k1, p1, k1

□ Rep Rows 1-4 once more then Row 1 again

□ Cast off

BUTTONHOLE BAND

□ Using 4.5mm needles and yarn A, with RS facing pick up and k 90 (90, 97, 104, 104, 111, 118, 118) sts up Right front

□ Rows 1 and 3 (WS): k1, p3, * k1, p2, k1, p3, rep from * to last two sts, k1, p1

□ Row 2: k1, p1, k1, LT, * p1, k2, p1, k1, LT, rep from * to last st, p1

□ Row 4: k1, p1, RT, k1, * p1, k2, p1, RT, k1, rep from * to last st, p1

Working in patt, work buttonhole row as folls:

NOTE: buttonhole is worked in each p3 section

□ Row 5 (WS): k1, p1, yrn twice, p2tog, * k1, p2, k1, p1, yrn twice, p2tog, rep from * to last two sts, k1, p1

□ Next row: drop first loop of yrn and work second loop in patt as Row 2

□ Work three more rows in patt

□ Cast off

To make up

Sew sleeve cap into armhole then sew sides and sleeve seams. Attach buttons. Weave in ends and block lightly **LK**

knitwise

Twists and turns

Twists are surprisingly simple to achieve and look beautiful when completed.

Here's how to work them in this pattern:

Right twist (RT)

K2tog and leave the sts on the left needle, then knit the first stitch again. Drop both sts off the left needle.

Left twist (LT)

Miss the first st and knit the second st through the back of the loop (tbl), see below, then knit both sts together tbl



Festive

STASH STAPLES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MAKE
KNITTED GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Us knitters know that it's never too early start on our Christmas makes, so to make your preparation easier, here are some must-have yarns that will help you sail through. From budget DKs to sparkly wonders, sit back, stress less and let your imagination run wild with socks, jumpers and all-important decorations.

1 KATIA SAN REMO

Reminiscent of sparkly little fairy lights, Katia's dazzling thread will add joyous pizzazz to your makes and win the 'wow' factor on Christmas day. The two-tone chain construction is surprisingly soft yet crisp to hold lace patterns or neat metallic embellishments. One 50g (112m) ball has an RRP of £3.30. See www.katia.com for stockists.

2 SIRDAR HARRAP TWEED

You can't go past a tweedy knit at Christmas time! Comprising 40% nylon, 30% wool, 24% acrylic, 6% viscose, think rustic jumpers in warm shades. The name of this new yarn came from the brothers that started the Sirdar company, adding heritage to your knits. One 50g (155m) ball has an RRP of £3.01. For stockists call **01924 371501** or visit www.sirdar.co.uk.

3 CASCADE SOCK YARN

Admit it, we all love a pair of cosy socks at Christmas! Especially when they're hand knitted! So why not knit a festive pair for someone special and keep their tootsies warm all throughout the season. This yarn is a soft blend of 75% merino superwash and 25% nylon. One 100g (400m) skein costs £6.99 from **0800 505 3300**, www.woolwarehouse.com

4 RICO ESSENTIALS COTTON DK

The must-own, super-value, never-fail stash staple that you will thank us for. Made from 100% mercerised cotton, it comes in more colours than you can poke tinsel at! Plus, it's super easy to work with so you'll be knitting up decorations, simple garments and homewares in no time. One 50g (130m) ball has an RRP of £2.89 See www.rico-design.de for stockists.

5 DROPS KID SILK

Kid Silk's fuzzy halo reminds us of the angel on top of the Christmas tree. Superb value and in a lace weight, Drops' super kid mohair and silk blend will add the finishing touch to a delicate tree ornament or perhaps a heavenly shawl. It also comes in a range of festive shades. One 25g (200m) ball costs £4.60 from **0800 505 3300**, www.woolwarehouse.com





6 SCHEEPJESWOL ROMA BIG

With a Christmas 'to knit' list as long as your arm, you'll be thankful for this chunky wonder. A pure acrylic staple, it's super value, has great stitch definition and knits up in no time! Plus, it's super soft and comes in a fabulous array of colours. You can't go wrong! One 220g (132m) ball costs £4.79 from **0800 488 0708**, www.deramores.com

7 BLACKER CORNISH TIN

For heartfelt knits with character. In a 4ply weight, this is a blend of ten of Blacker's favourite fibres including alpaca, mohair and merino in celebration of the company's tenth birthday. It comes in four multi-tonal shades and an undyed, natural colour. Be quick, Cornish Tin is limited edition! One 100g (350m) ball costs £12.90 from **01566 777635**, www.blackeryarns.co.uk

8 JAMES C. BRETT TWINKLE DK

Add a little sparkle to any jolly knit with an essential great value DK yarn. Each fantastic value ball is highlighted by a metallic thread running through and knits to most DK patterns so you won't be short of uses for this all-rounder. One 100g (300m) ball has an RRP of £3.09 from. Call **01274 565959** or go to www.jamescbrett.co.uk for stockists.

meet our DESIGNER

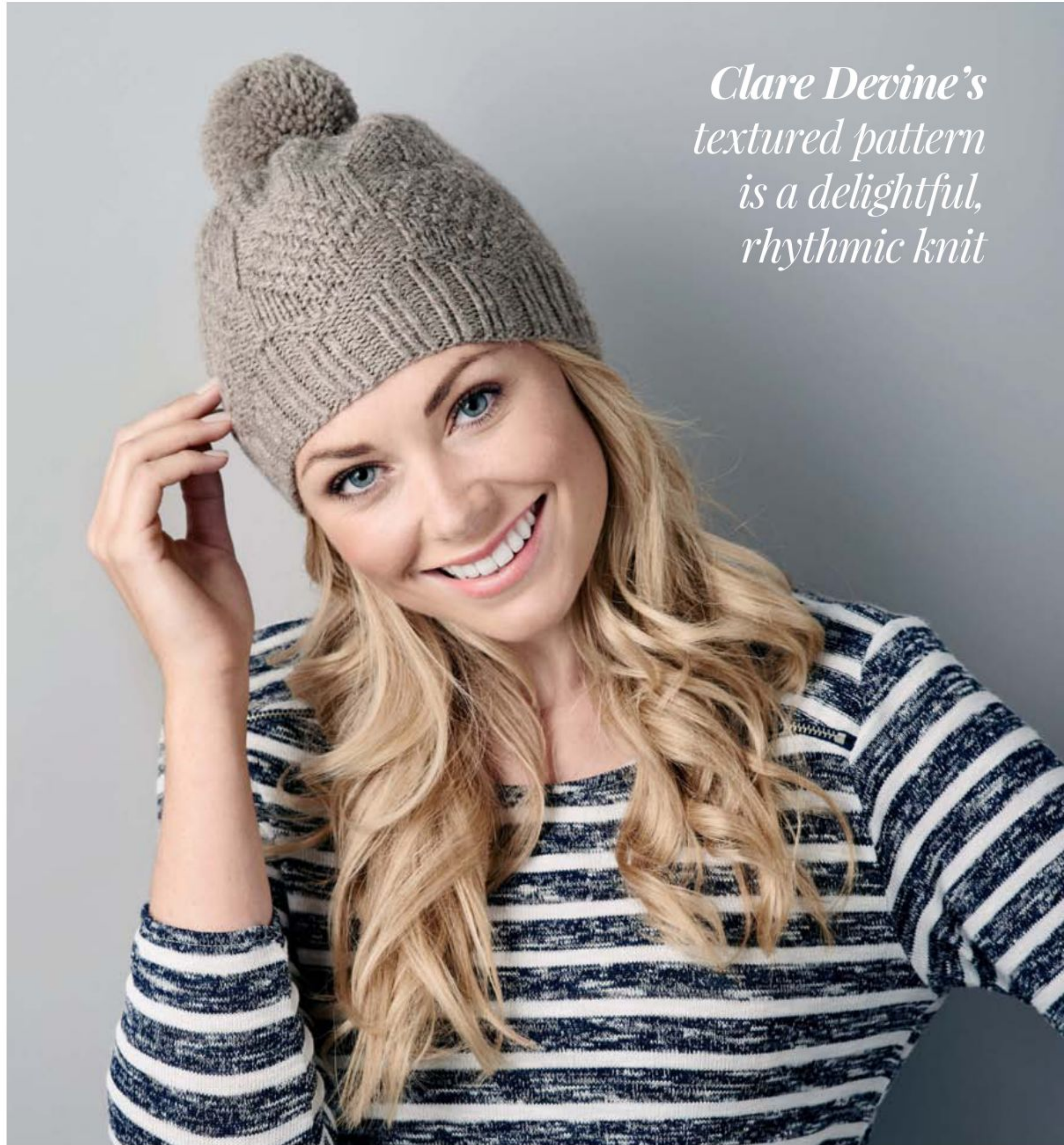


CLARE DEVINE

"This richly textured hat features a striking diamond and chevron pattern, and the twisted rib brim flows beautifully into the textured stitches, which are cleverly integrated into the crown decreases. Add a pompom for a touch of fun or work a longer brim for a slouchier look."

"Celebrating the

*Clare Devine's
textured pattern
is a delightful,
rhythmic knit*



Measurements & sizes

Size (approx):
Small (medium, large)
To fit head circumference (cm):
50 (55, 60)
Actual circumference (cm):
40 (46, 53)
Length from brim to crown: 22cm

Knit Kit

Yarn: West Yorkshire Spinners
Bluefaced Leicester Aran
Fleece, shade 02 Light Brown,
one 100g skein
Needles: 4mm dpns, 5mm dpns
Stitch markers

Tension Square

18 sts x 24 rows
10cm x 10cm
over patt
5mm needles
(blocked)

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

West Yorkshire Spinners
Bluefaced Leicester Aran
Fleece is a beautiful 100%
British wool. It's undyed
and comes in three natural
shades. It has an RRP of £8.28
per 100g (166m) hank. For
stockists call 01535 664500
or visit www.wyspinners.com



beauty of knit and purl”

EXCLUSIVE TO

Let's
knit

Take a pure, undyed British yarn and a simple knit-and-purl motif and you've got a classic hat that will be loved for years. This one skein knit costs less than £10 to make, so it's a perfect addition to your Christmas gift list, and because it's worked in the round there's no sewing up at the end!

Start knitting here

BRIM

Using 4mm needles and a stretchy cast-on method such as the German Twisted method or Long Tail method, cast on 72 (84, 96) sts. Join to work in the round.

Work from Chart (see page 93) or written instructions as follows:

- Rnds 1-13: * p1, k3 tbl, p1, k2 tbl, p1, k3 tbl, p1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 14-15: * p2, [k2 tbl, p1] twice, k2 tbl, p2, rep from * to end
- Rnd 16: * p3, k1 tbl, p1, k2 tbl, p1, k1 tbl, p3, rep from * to end
- Rnd 17: * k1, p2, k1 tbl, p1, k2 tbl, p1, k1 tbl, p3, rep from * to end
- Rnd 18: * k2, p3, k2 tbl, p5, rep from * to end
- Rnd 19: * p1, k2, p2, k2 tbl, p4, k1, rep from * to end

BODY

Change to 5mm needles and work from Chart or written instructions as follows:

- Rnd 20: * p1, k3, p7, k1, rep from * to end
- Rnd 21: * k1, p1, k3, p5, k1, p1, rep from * to end
- Rnd 22: * k1, p1, k4, p4, k1, p1,

rep from * to end

- Rnds 23-24: * p1, k1, p1, k3, p3, k1, p1, k1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 25-26: * [k1, p1] twice, k2, p2, (k1, p1) twice, rep from * to end
- Rnds 27-28: * p1, k1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 29-30: * k1, p1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 31-32: * [p1, k1] twice, p2, k2, [p1, k1] twice, rep from * to end
- Rnds 33-34: * k1, p1, k1, p3, k3, p1, k1, p1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 35-36: * p1, k1, p4, k4, p1, k1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 37-38: * k1, p5, k5, p1, rep from * to end
- Rnds 39-40: * p6, k6, rep from * to end
- Rnds 41-42: * p5, k1, p1, k5, rep from * to end
- Rnds 43-44: * p4, [k1, p1] twice, k4, rep from * to end
- Rnds 45-46: * p3, [k1, p1] three times, k3, rep from * to end
- Rnds 47-48: * p2, [k1, p1] four times, k2, rep from * to end
- Rnds 49-50: * p1, k1, rep from * to end
- Rnd 51: * k1, p1, rep from * to end

CROWN

Cont to work from Chart or written instructions as follows:

- Rnd 52: * ssk, (k1, p1) four times, k2tog, rep from * to end. 60 (70, 80) sts
- Rnd 53: * [k1, p1] four times, k2, rep from * to end
- Rnd 54: * ssk, [k1, p1] three times, k2tog, rep from * to end. 48 (56, 64) sts
- Rnd 55: * [k1, p1] three times, k2, rep from * to end
- Rnd 56: * ssk, [k1, p1] twice, k2tog, rep from * to



knitwise

Needle know-how

If your dpns are not long enough for all of the cast-on stitches you can start this project off on a short circular needle (40cm should be fine) and change to dpns when you start the decreases. Alternatively it's possible to knit the whole thing on a very long circular needle using the magic loop method. Check out YouTube for online tutorials explaining how to do this.

Need an alternative?

Patons Wool Blend Aran comprises 63% wool and 27% acrylic and costs £3.99 per 100g (185m) ball from 0800 488 0708, www.deramores.com

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FOLKLORE

Includes 12 patterns from designers Sian Brown, Helen Ardley, Emma Wright and Ruth Maddock.



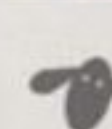
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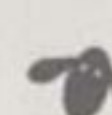
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Nordic Adventure

Make sure he stays warm this winter with a classic tank top from Rowan

Inspired by the rugged and dramatic landscape of the Faroe Islands, this tank top is knitted in Rowan's new Hemp Tweed yarn. The earthy colours make it a good choice for men who prefer muted shades with subtle patterning. The soft sheen on the yarn means it can also be dressed up for the office.

"This elegant stitch pattern could be incorporated into all sorts of projects from jumpers to cushions"

LK Deputy Editor **Adrienne Chandler**

Measurements & sizes

Size: XS (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL)
To fit chest (cm): 97 (102, 107, 112, 117, 122, 127)
Actual chest (cm): 103 (109, 115, 121, 127, 133, 139)
Length from shoulder (cm): 54 (57, 60, 60, 62, 62, 65)

Knit Kit

Yarn: Rowan Hemp Tweed, shades (A) 133 Denim, 4 (4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6) 50g balls, (B) 132 Plum, 3 (3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4) 50g balls
Needles: 4mm straight, 4mm (40cm) circular, 4.5mm straight
Tapestry needle

Tension Square

20 sts x 33 rows
 10cm x 10cm
 over patt
 4.5mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Rowan Hemp Tweed blends 75% wool and 25% hemp fibre in a textured yarn that's brand new for this season. It knits to a light aran tension and comes in ten shades. You can machine wash this yarn but do not tumble dry.

Let's Shop

Rowan Hemp Tweed costs £4.50 per 50g (93m) ball from 0845 544 2196, www.loveknitting.com

knitwise

Pattern perfect

This two-colour pattern looks really impressive but you are actually only using one shade per row; that's because you slip certain stitches without knitting them and this brings the previous colour up from the row below. This method does create a tighter, less stretchy fabric, so always do a tension square to make sure your work drapes the way you want it to.

Start knitting here

BACK

NOTE: if you have too many sts to fit on straight needles, use a circular needle and work back and forth in rows

Using 4mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on 98 (106, 110, 118, 122, 130, 134) sts

□ Row 1 (RS): k2, * p2, k2, rep from * to end

□ Row 2: p2, * k2, p2, rep from * to end

These two rows set rib

□ Cont in rib for a further 11 rows, inc (dec, inc, dec, inc, dec, inc) one st at end of last row. 99 (105, 111, 117, 123, 129, 135) sts

Change to 4.5mm needles

□ Next row (WS): p

Join in yarn B, work in patt as folls:

NOTE: letter in square brackets indicates yarn used for row

□ Row 1 (RS): [B] k1, * sl 1 wyib, k5, rep from * to last two sts, sl 1 wyib, k1

□ Row 2: [B] p1, * sl 1 wyif, p5, rep from * to last two sts, sl 1 wyif, p1

□ Row 3: [A] k3, * sl 3 wyib, k3, rep from * to end

□ Row 4: [A] p3, * sl 3 wyif, p3, rep from * to end

□ Row 5: [B] k1, sl 2 wyib, * k3, sl 3 wyib, rep from * to last six sts, k3, sl 2 wyib, k1

□ Row 6: [B] p1, sl 2 wyif, * p3, sl 3 wyif, rep from * to last six sts, p3, sl 2 wyif, p1

□ Row 7: [A] k4, * sl 1 wyib, k5, rep from * to last five sts, sl 1 wyib, k4

□ Row 8: [A] p4, * sl 1 wyif, p5, rep from * to last five sts, sl 1 wyif, p4

These eight rows set patt

□ Cont in patt inc one st at each end of 17th and foll 24th row, taking inc sts into patt. 103 (109, 115, 121, 127, 133, 139) sts

□ Cont without shaping until Back meas 31 (32, 34, 32, 32, 31, 33) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

□ Keeping patt correct, cast off four sts at beg of next two rows. 95 (101, 107, 113, 119, 125, 131) sts **

□ Dec one st at each end of next five rows, then on foll six alt rows, then on two foll fourth rows. 69 (75, 81, 87, 93, 99, 105) sts

□ Cont without shaping until armhole meas 21 (23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30) cm, ending after a WS row

SHAPE SHOULDERS AND BACK NECK

□ Next row (RS): cast off 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7) sts, patt until there are 16 (18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28) sts on RH

needle, turn

Leave rem sts on a holder and cont on this set of sts only

□ Keeping patt correct, dec one st at neck edge of next four rows **AT THE SAME TIME** cast off 4 (4, 5, 6, 6, 7, 8) sts at beg of second row, then 4 (5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8) sts at beg of foll alt row. 4 (5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8) sts

□ Patt one row

□ Cast off

□ With RS facing, slip centre 29 (31, 31, 33, 33, 35, 35) sts on to a holder, rejoin appropriate yarn and patt to end

□ Complete to match first side, reversing shapings

FRONT

□ Work as for Back to **

□ Keeping patt correct, dec one st at each end of next five rows, then on foll three alt rows. 79 (85, 91, 97, 103, 109, 115) sts

□ Patt one row

DIVIDE FOR NECK

□ Next row (RS): patt 2tog, patt 37 (40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55) sts, turn
 Leave rem sts on a holder and work on this set of sts only

□ Keeping patt correct, dec one st at armhole edge of second and foll alt row, then on two foll fourth rows **AT THE SAME TIME** dec one st at neck edge of second and foll 5 (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 3) alt rows, then on 0 (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1) foll fourth row. 28 (31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 47) sts

□ Dec one st at neck edge only on 2nd (2nd, 2nd, 2nd, 4th, 4th, 4th) and foll 6 (5, 3, 2, 0, 0, 0) alt rows, then on 5 (7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15) foll fourth rows. 16 (18, 21, 23, 26, 28, 31) sts

□ Cont without shaping until Front matches Back to beg of shoulder shaping, ending after a WS row

SHAPE SHOULDER

□ Cast off 4 (4, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7) sts at beg of next and foll 2 (1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 0) alt rows, then 0 (5, 0, 6, 7, 0, 8) sts at beg of foll 0 (1, 0, 2, 1, 0, 2) alt rows. 4 (5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8) sts

□ Patt one row

□ Cast off

□ With RS facing, slip centre st on to a holder, rejoin appropriate yarn and patt to last two sts, patt 2tog. 38 (41, 44, 47, 50, 53, 56) sts

□ Complete to match first side, reversing shapings

To make up

Press according to ball band instructions. Join both shoulder



seams using back stitch or mattress stitch

NECKBAND

□ Using 4mm circular needle and yarn A, with RS facing, pick up and k 42 (46, 50, 54, 58, 58, 62) sts down left side of Front neck, k st on holder and pm in this st, pick up and k 42 (46, 50, 54, 58, 58, 62) sts up right side of Front neck, five sts down right side of back neck, k 29 (31, 31, 33, 33, 35, 35) sts on Back holder dec (inc, inc, dec, dec, inc, inc) one st at centre, pick up and k five sts up left side of Back neck. 123 (135, 143, 151, 159, 163, 171) sts

□ Rnd 1 (RS): * k2, p2, rep from * to two sts before marked st, k2tog, p marked st, skpo, p2, ** k2, p2, rep from ** to end. 121 (133, 141, 149, 157, 161, 169) sts

This rnd sets position of rib

Keeping rib correct, cont as folls:

□ Rnd 2: rib to two sts before marked st, k2tog, p marked st, skpo, rib to end. 119 (131, 139, 147, 155, 159, 167) sts

□ Rep last rnd four times more. 111 (123, 131, 139, 147, 151, 159) sts

□ Cast off in rib **AT THE SAME TIME** dec either side of marked st as set

ARMHOLE BORDERS (alike)

□ Using 4mm straight needles and yarn A, with RS facing, pick up and k 90 (98, 102, 110, 118, 122, 126) sts evenly all round armhole edge

□ Beg with Row 2, work five rows in rib as for Back

□ Cast off in rib

Sew seam and weave in ends **LK**



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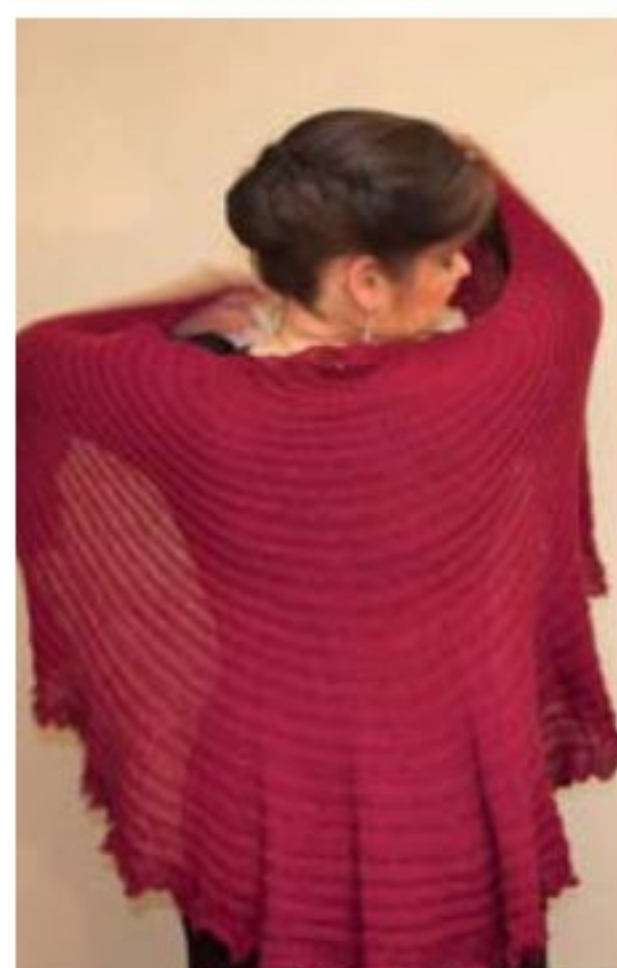
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Happy Holidays

Trim your tree with Susie Johns' simple and speedy decs



Give your festive fir a crafty makeover with these sweet little projects. The Christmas tree is really easy to make and can be embellished with buttons and beads. The Snowman is knitted in the round in stocking stitch and is a great opportunity to practise using double-pointed needles. Lastly, the owl wreath is a brilliant way to get these popular birds into your seasonal decorations. Why not make lots and personalise them by using different colours.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 71

"If you omit the hanging loop from the snowman and embroider the eyes and buttons, he would be a lovely stocking filler for a tiny tot"

LK Deputy Editor
ADRIENNE CHANDLER



knit WISE

These projects use slightly smaller needles than you would usually expect for a DK weight yarn. This is because you want to produce a firm fabric, so that the decorations hold their shape. It also means the stuffing won't show through.



meet our DESIGNER

"It would be great to make dozens of these little trinkets to hang all over the tree. If you're using a wool yarn, I suggest packing them in a box with a few mothballs when you put them away."

SUSIE JOHNS



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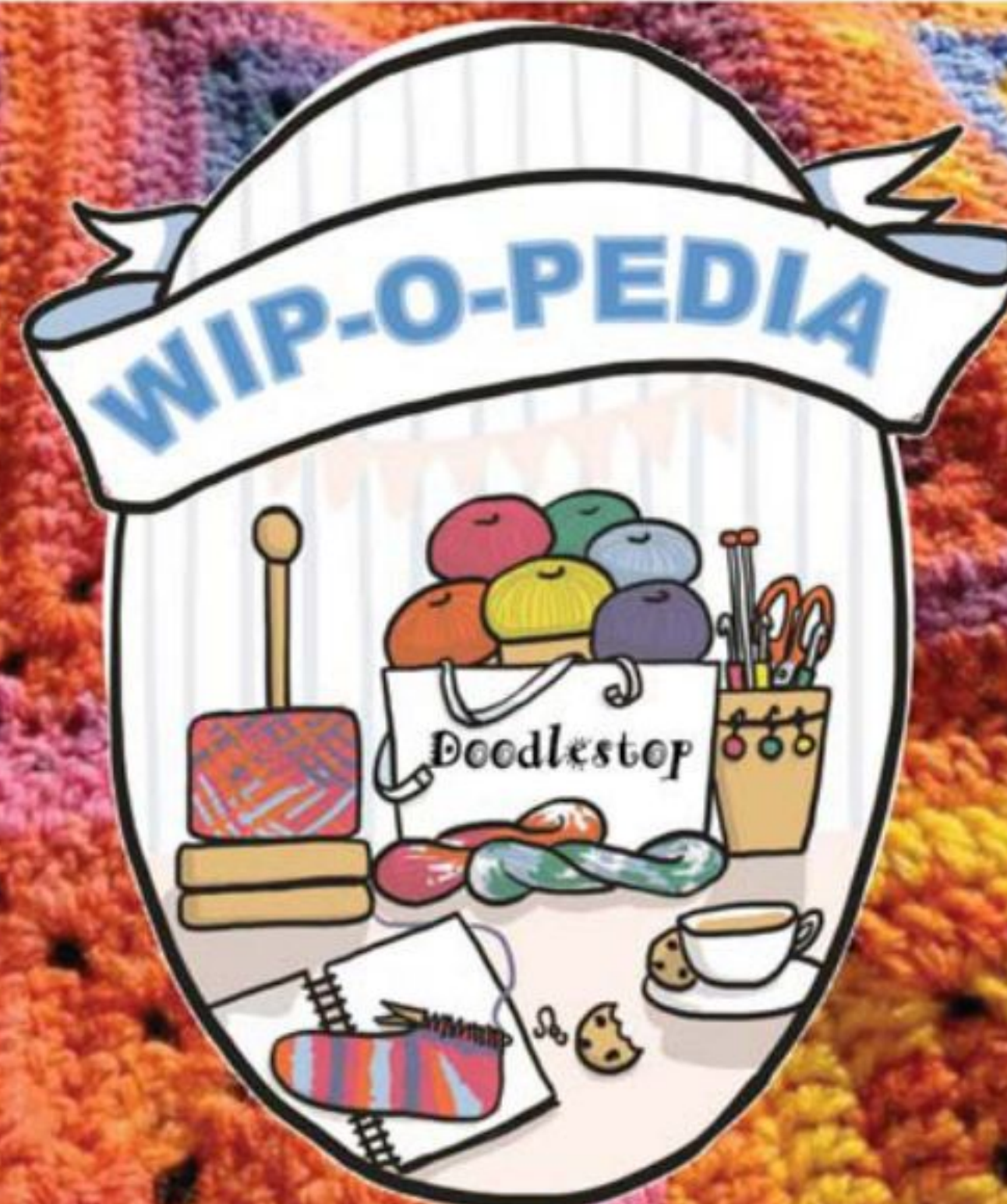
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Common terms, symbols and abbreviations

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Measurements & sizes

Tree: 15cm

Snowman: 12cm

Wreath: 8cm diameter

Knit Kit

Yarn: King Cole Merino Blend DK, shades (A) 01 White, (B) 18 Turquoise, (C) 1527 Opal, (D) 09 Scarlet, (E) 855 Mustard, one 50g ball of each

Needles: 3.25mm straight, 3.25mm double-pointed, set of four

Buttons: small round; star-shaped, one

Beads: wooden, round, assorted colours

Felt: yellow

Sewing needle and thread

Safety toy stuffing

Bangle: 8cm diameter

Stitch holders

Tapestry needle

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

King Cole Merino Blend DK is a pure superwash wool and is soft, smooth and easy to knit with. Choose from 50 shades.

Need an Alternative?

As only one ball of each colour is needed, raid your stash to see what oddments you can use up.

Let's Shop

King Cole Merino Blend DK costs £2.95 per 50g (112m) ball from 0845 003 0775, www.wool4less.co.uk



Start knitting here

SNOWMAN

Using 3.25mm dpns and yarn A, cast on six sts, distribute over three needles and join in the rnd, taking care not to twist

- ☐ Rnd 1: (kfb) to end. 12 sts
- ☐ Rnd 2: (k1, kfb) to end. 18 sts
- ☐ Rnd 3: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
- ☐ Rnd 4: (k3, kfb) to end. 30 sts
- ☐ Rnd 5: (k4, kfb) to end. 36 sts
- ☐ Rnd 6: (k5, kfb) to end. 42 sts
- ☐ Rnd 7: k
- ☐ Rnd 8: (k6, kfb) to end. 48 sts
- ☐ K 16 rnds
- ☐ Rnd 25: (k6, k2tog) to end. 42 sts
- ☐ Rnd 26: k
- ☐ Rnd 27: (k5, k2tog) to end. 36 sts
- ☐ Rnd 28: (k4, k2tog) to end. 30 sts
- ☐ Rnd 29: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts
- ☐ Rnd 30: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts
- ☐ Rnd 31: (k2, kfb) to end. 24 sts
- ☐ Rnd 32: (k3, kfb) to end. 30 sts
- ☐ Rnd 33: (k4, kfb) to end. 36 sts
- ☐ K nine rnds
- ☐ Rnd 43: (k4, k2tog) to end. 30 sts
- ☐ Rnd 44: (k3, k2tog) to end. 24 sts
- ☐ Rnd 45: (k2, k2tog) to end. 18 sts
- ☐ Rnd 46: (k1, k2tog) to end. 12 sts
- ☐ Rnd 47: (k2tog) to end. Six sts
- ☐ Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through rem sts, stuff Snowman, pull tight and fasten off

SCARF

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn B, cast on 65 sts

- ☐ K four rows
- ☐ Cast off

HANGING LOOP

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn A, cast on 35 sts using two-needle method

- ☐ Cut yarn and thread tail through

last st, slide all sts off needle and tug to partially unravel cord

To make up

Sew running stitch around neck and pull tight to gather. Sew three buttons down front of body and two black beads for eyes. Make two 3cm pompoms and sew to ends of Scarf. Tie Scarf around neck

TREE

NOTE: make two pieces

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn C, cast on 25 sts

- ☐ Rows 1-3: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
- ☐ Row 4: k1, ssk, (p1, k1) to last four sts, p1, k2tog, k1. 23 sts
- ☐ Rows 5-7: k2, (p1, k1) to last sts, k1
- ☐ Row 8: k1, ssk, (k1, p1) to last four sts, k1, k2tog, k1. 21 sts
- ☐ Rows 9-16: rep Rows 1-8. 17 sts
- ☐ Rows 17-24: rep Rows 1-8. 13 sts
- ☐ Rows 25-32: rep Rows 1-8. Nine sts
- ☐ Rows 33-35: rep Rows 1-3
- ☐ Row 36: k1, ssk, p1, k1, p1, k2tog, k1. Seven sts
- ☐ Rows 37-39: rep Rows 5-7
- ☐ Row 40: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1. Five sts
- ☐ Rows 41-43: rep Rows 1-3
- ☐ Row 44: k1, skpo, k1. Three sts
- ☐ Rows 45-47: k1, p1, k1
- ☐ Row 48: k3tog. One st
- ☐ Fasten off

BUCKET

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn D, cast on nine sts

- ☐ Rows 1-4: k
- ☐ Row 5: k1, ssk, k3, k2tog, k1. Seven sts
- ☐ Rows 6-8: beg with a p row, work in st st
- ☐ Row 9: k1, ssk, k1, k2tog, k1. Five sts
- ☐ Row 10: p
- ☐ Rows 11-13: k
- ☐ Row 14: p
- ☐ Row 15: (k1, kfb) twice, k1. Seven sts
- ☐ Rows 16-18: beg with a p row, work in st st
- ☐ Row 19: k1, kfb, k3, kfb, k1. Nine sts
- ☐ K three rows
- ☐ Cast off

HANGING LOOP

☐ Using yarn C, work as for Snowman

To make up

With RS together, stitch back and front of tree together down each side. Turn right way out and stuff lightly. Fold Bucket in half along garter stitch ridge and sew sides. Insert base of Tree into top of Bucket, then stitch Tree along base, holding bucket in place. Stitch beads all over tree, to



CONTINUED ON PAGE 73

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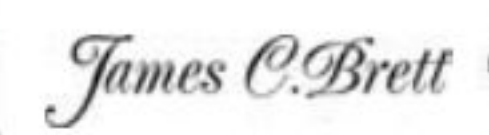
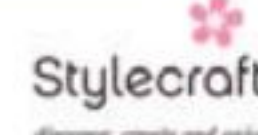
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decorate. Stitch ends of Hanging loop to top of Tree, and sew star-shaped button over join

OWL WREATH WREATH

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn C, cast on 49 sts

- ☐ Row 1: (k1, p1) to last st, k1
- ☐ Rep Row 1 seven times more
- ☐ Cast off

OWL

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn E, cast on eight sts

- ☐ Row 1: (kfb) to end. 16 sts
- ☐ Beg with a p row, work nine rows in st st

Cut yarn E, join in yarn B

- ☐ Beg with a k row, work six rows in st st
- ☐ Next row: cast off five sts, slip st from RH to LH needle, cast on two sts, cast off eight, slip st from RH to LH needle, cast on two sts, cast off all rem sts

HAT

Using 3.25mm needles and yarn A, cast on nine sts

- ☐ Rows 1-2: k
- Cut yarn A, join in yarn D
- ☐ Rows 3-4: beg with a k row, work in st st
- ☐ Row 5: (k1, k2tog) to end. Six sts
- ☐ Rows 6-8: beg with a p row,

work in st st

- ☐ Row 9: (k2tog) to end. Three sts
- ☐ Beg with a p row, work three rows in st st
- ☐ Cut yarn and thread tail through rem sts, pull tight and fasten off

BOW

Using 3.25mm straight needles and yarn D, cast on 65 sts

- ☐ K one row
- ☐ Cast off

Tie into a bow

HANGING LOOP

- ☐ Using yarn C, work as for Snowman

To make up

Stitch short end of Wreath strip together, then wrap around bangle. Sew cast-on and cast-off edges together. Stitch centre back seam of Owl, then sew top of head. Lightly stuff then sew base closed. Stitch Hat seam and sew to the Owl's head. Make a small pompom using yarn A and attach to top of hat. Attach button eyes. Cut a triangle of yellow felt for a beak, and stitch in place. Place Owl in centre of Wreath and stitch base in place. Using yarn E, embroider claws. Stitch Bow to Wreath. Attach Hanging loop to top of Wreath **LK**



Find more cute animal patterns for free at www.letsknit.co.uk

CUTLERY HOLDERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39) STRIPED STOCKING

Using 4mm dpns and yarn A, cast on 28 sts, join in the rnd taking care not to twist sts, pm for beg of rnd

- ☐ Row 1: (k2, p2) to end
- Row 1 sets 2x2 rib
- ☐ Cont in 2x2 rib until piece meas 8cm
- ☐ Dec rnd: (k5, ssk, k5, k2tog) twice. 24 sts
- Change to yarn B
- ☐ Working in one rnd stripe sequence of yarn B and yarn A, k until work meas 13.5cm from cast-on edge, ending after a rnd in yarn B

HEEL FLAP

NOTE: Commence working flat instead of in the rnd

- Cont in yarn A only
- ☐ Next row: k6, turn, p12 (work back and forth on these 12 sts for the heel flap)
- Place rem 12 sts on holder
- ☐ Next row: sl 1, k to end
- ☐ Next row: sl 1, p to end

- ☐ Rep last two rows twice more

TURN THE HEEL

- ☐ Row 1: k7, ssk, k1, turn
- ☐ Row 2: p4, p2tog, p1, turn
- ☐ Row 3: k5, ssk, k1
- ☐ Row 4: p6, p2tog, p1
- ☐ Row 5: k6, ssk
- ☐ Row 6: p5, p2tog. Six sts

REJOINING THE HEEL

NOTE: Commence working in the rnd once more

- ☐ Using 4mm dpns and yarn A, k across your six heel sts, pick up and k six sts down left side of heel flap, k12 from holder, pick up and k six sts up the right side of heel flap, k3 from first six sts, pm to mark beg of rnd. 30 sts

INSTEP

NOTE: Distribute sts across three needles so there are ten sts on each needle

- Change to yarn B, working in one rnd stripe sequence of yarn B and yarn A
- ☐ Rnd 1: k8, ssk, k10, k2tog, k8. 28 sts
- ☐ Rnd 2 and every alt rnd: k
- ☐ Rnd 3: k7, ssk, k10, k2tog,

- k7. 26 sts
- ☐ Rnd 5: k6, ssk, k10, k2tog, k6. 24 sts
- ☐ Cont in stripe sequence as set, k 11 rnds

TOE

- Cont in yarn A only
- ☐ Rnd 1: (k1, ssk, k6, k2tog, k1)

- twice. 20 sts
- ☐ Rnd 2: k
- ☐ Rnd 3: (k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1) twice. 16 sts
- ☐ Rnd 4: k
- ☐ Rnd 5: (k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1) twice. 12 sts
- ☐ Cast off





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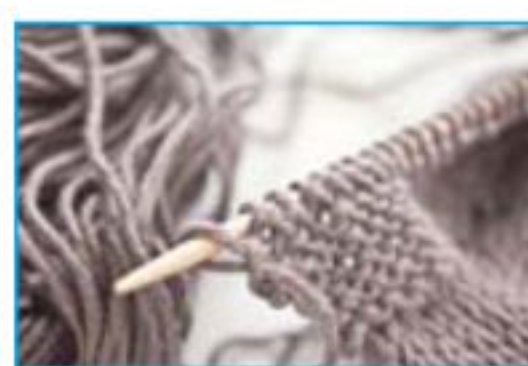
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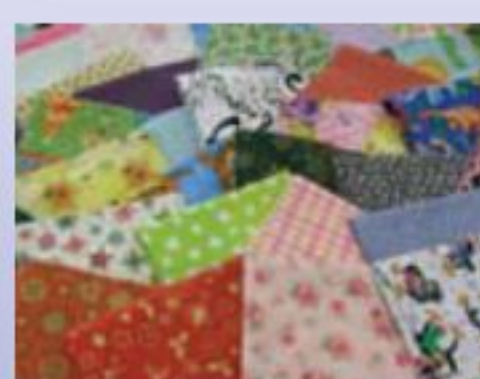
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Sconch

Sconch has gift giving all wrapped up this Christmas. First of all, the team is running a brilliant class to teach you how to crochet your own beautiful Christmas baubles. Secondly, it has everything you need to make a cute little hedgehog friend in King Cole Tinsel Chunky as well as many other festive characters. Thirdly, if you're after a bit of luxury, it now stocks the delightful Erika Knight yarn bowls which are on every knitters' wishlist. What more could you want?!

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AMAZING TEN-PIECE SET!

Silent Night: Part 1

*Create a Christmas classic with
Liz Ward's crocheted nativity*

This brilliant collectors' set is sure to become a regular fixture in your festive display. We love the level of detail, from the Wise Men's gifts to the shepherd's crooks. In this issue, we bring you the patterns for Mary and Joseph. The given yarn amounts are for all the figures, although only yarns A to F are required for Mary and Joseph. Look out for Part 2 in next issue, on sale 30th October.

EXCLUSIVE TO

Let's
knit



meet our
DESIGNER

"I've designed this nativity to look like the primary school shows. To me it's the tea towel headdresses, stuck-on beards and bits of tinsel that make it so special. I might never have gotten to play Mary but I rocked it as a Wise Man!"

LIZ WARD

Measurements & sizes

Adults: 11cm tall
 Sheep: 7cm long
 Jesus: 7cm tall
 Manger: 2.5cm tall x 7cm long x 5cm wide

Crochet Kit

Yarn: Drops Safran 4ply, shades (A) 18 Off White, (B) 50 Light Ice Blue, (C) 17 White, (D) 21 Beige, (E) 22 Light Brown, (F) 19 Red, (G) 23 Brown, (H) 30 Turquoise, (I) 11 Strong Yellow, (J) 31 Lime, (K) 15 Dark Heather, (L) 53 Light Purple, one 50g ball of each

Hook: 3.5mm

Safety toy eyes: 6mm, 18

Tapestry needle

Safety toy stuffing

Sewing needle and thread

Stitch marker

Bead: gold

Buttons: toggle, purple, brown

Trims: ricrac, 25cm, braid, 20cm

Fabric glue

Pipe cleaner

Hessian fabric: 10cm x 12cm

Tension Square

12 sts x 13 rows
 10cm x 10cm
 double crochet
 3.5mm hook

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Drops Safran 4ply is a pure cotton yarn with a matte finish. It comes in 27 shades so you can choose your own colour schemes for the Kings' outfits.

Need an Alternative?

Cotton works well for crochet, but you could use any 4ply yarn from your stash.

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Drops Safran 4ply costs £1.15 per 50g (160m) ball from 0800 505 3300, www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

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Start knitting here

MARY HEAD AND BODY

NOTE: start at the head

Using 3.5mm crochet hook and yarn A, make a magic ring

□ Foundation rnd: 6dc in ring. Six sts

□ Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

Pull yarn tail to close ring

□ Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

□ Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts

□ Rnd 4: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30 sts

□ Rnd 5: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

□ Rnds 6-10: 1dc in each st to end, pm in Rnd 8

□ Rnd 11: (dc2tog, 4dc) to end. 30 sts

□ Rnd 12: (dc2tog, 3dc) to end. 24 sts

□ Rnd 13: (dc2tog, 2dc) to end. 18 sts

Affix safety toy eyes on marked rnd placing them seven sts apart

□ Rnd 14: (dc2tog, 1dc) to end. 12 sts

Stuff head

Change to yarn B for body

□ Rnd 15: 1dc in each st to end

□ Rnd 16: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 15 sts

□ Rnd 17: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

□ Rnd 18: (5dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 21 sts

□ Rnds 19-23: cont to inc as set, working one more dc before each inc, until there are 36 sts

□ Rnds 24-30: 1dc in each st to end. Work through back loop only as folls:

□ Rnd 31: (dc2tog, 4dc) to end. 30 sts

Work through both loops as normal as folls:

□ Rnd 32: (dc2tog, 3dc) to end. 24 sts

□ Rnd 33: (dc2tog, 2dc) to

end. 18 sts

□ Rnd 34: (dc2tog, 1dc) to end. 12 sts

Stuff body

□ Rnd 35: (dc2tog) to end. Six sts

□ Fasten off, leaving a tail

Using a tapestry needle, weave tail around last rnd, pull tight to gather and secure

ARMS (make two)

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn B, make a magic ring

□ Foundation rnd: 6dc in ring. Six sts

□ Rnd 1: 2dc in first st, 1dc in each st to end. Seven sts

□ Rnd 2: 1dc in each st to end

□ Rnds 3-10: rep Rows 1-2 four times. 11 sts

□ Rnd 11: 1dc in each st to end

□ Fasten off

Attach Arms to body

HANDS (make two)

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn A, make a magic ring

□ Foundation rnd: 8dc in ring

□ Rnds 1-2: 1dc in each st to end

□ Fasten off

Sew Hands partly inside Arms

BELT

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn C, make 36ch

□ Fasten off

Wrap Belt around body and secure

SHORT HEADDRESS

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn B, make a magic ring

□ Foundation rnd: 6dc in ring. Six sts

□ Rnd 1: 2dc in each st to end. 12 sts

□ Rnd 2: (1dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 18 sts

□ Rnd 3: (2dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 24 sts

□ Rnd 4: (3dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 30sts

□ Rnd 5: (4dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 36 sts

□ Rnd 6: (11dc, 2dc in next st) to end. 39 sts

□ Rnds 7-8: 1dc in each st to end

□ Rnd 9: 30dc, turn

Work on these 30 sts only

□ Rows 10-16: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, turn

□ Row 17: 1ch, 1dc in each st to



crochetclever

Round and around

The figures in this nativity set are all worked in a continuous spiral, so you do not need to finish each round with a slip stitch. Remember to place a lockable stitch marker in the first stitch of every round so you know where you started!



end, do not turn

☐ Fasten off

Sew headdress in place, securing to Arms with a few sts

To make up

Embroider mouth using two straight stitches. Using yarn E, embroider straight stitches to make a fringe poking out from headdress

JOSEPH HEAD AND BODY

NOTE: start at the head

☐ Work Head and body, Arms and Hands as for Mary

SHORT HEADDRESS

☐ Using yarn D, work as for Mary

BEARD

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn E, make 16ch, sl st in first ch to make a loop

☐ Row 1: 1ch, 1dc in next seven ch, turn

Work on these seven sts only

☐ Rows 2-4: 1ch, dc2tog, 1dc in each st to end, turn. Four sts

☐ Row 5: 1ch, (dc2tog) twice, turn. Two sts

☐ Row 6: 1ch, dc2tog. One st

☐ Fasten off

SCARF

Using 3.5mm hook and yarn F, make four ch

☐ Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in each st to end. Three sts

☐ Row 2-39: 1ch, 1dc in each st to

end, turn

☐ Row 40: 1ch, 1dc in each st to end, do not turn

☐ Fasten off

Place around Joseph's neck and sew in place

To make up

Attach Beard to face. Wrap Scarf around neck, as shown, and stitch to ridge round on body **LK**



**coming
next issue**

PART 2 OF LIZ WARD'S
CROCHET NATIVITY SET
November issue of Let's Knit,
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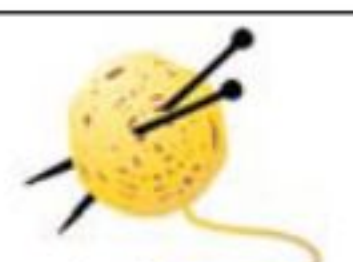
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meet our
DESIGNER

"This fun lace V-neck vest is the perfect knit for layering and keeping your little one cosy."

CAMILLA MILLER

Measurements & sizes

To fit ages: 0-6 months (6-12 months, 1-2 years, 2-3 years)

To fit chest: 41 (46, 51, 56) cm

Length of garment: 21.5 (25.5, 31, 37) cm

Sample shown size 0-6 months

Knit Kit

Yarn: Jenny Watson Pure Merino DK, shade 12 Clematis, 2 (3, 3, 3) 50g balls

Needles: 4mm

Tension Square

20 sts x 28 rows
10cm x 10cm
over pattern
4mm needles

21 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

FOR ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 92

About the Yarn

Jenny Watson Pure Merino DK is a 100% merino yarn with a soft twist for a super smooth finish. It's also machine washable up to 30°C.

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"Dress your little one in Princess Charlotte style with a classic vest in a luxury merino yarn!"

LK Editorial Assistant **Isobel Smith**

LACE PATTERN

- ☐ Row 1 and all odd-numbered rows (WS): p
- ☐ Row 2: k1, * k2, k2tog, yfwd, k1, rep from * to end of row
- ☐ Row 4: k1, * k1, k2tog, yfwd, k2, rep from * to end of row
- ☐ Row 6: k1, * k2tog, yfwd, k3, rep from * to end of row
- ☐ Rep Rows 1-6

Start knitting here

BACK

Using 4mm needles, cast on 51 (56, 61, 66) sts

- ☐ Row 1: k1, [p1, k1] to end

This row sets moss st

- ☐ Work in moss st for 2cm
- ☐ Work in st st until work meas 12 (15, 20, 25) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a WS row

Pm at each end of row to denote beg of armhole

SHAPE ARMHOLES

- ☐ Next row: k2tog, k to last two sts, k2tog. 49 (54, 59, 64) sts
- ☐ Next row: p
- ☐ Rep last two rows. 47 (52, 57, 62) sts
- ☐ Work in st st until armhole meas 9.5 (10.5, 11, 12) cm, ending after a RS row
- ☐ Work one full rep of Lace patt
- ☐ Starting with a p row work three rows in st st
- ☐ K 15 (16, 17, 18) sts, cast off centre
- ☐ 17 (20, 23, 26) sts, k to end
- ☐ Place sts on holder

FRONT

Using 4mm needles, cast on 51 (56, 61, 66) st

- ☐ Work for 2cm in moss st
- ☐ Work in Lace patt working an edging of o (2, o, 2) k sts at beg and o (3, o, 3) k sts at end of every RS row until work meas 12 (15, 20, 25) cm from cast-on edge, ending after a RS row

SHAPE ARMHOLES

- ☐ Next row: k2tog, patt to last two sts, k2tog. 49 (54, 59, 64) sts
- ☐ Next row: p
- ☐ Next row: k2tog, patt to last two sts, k2tog. 47 (52, 57, 62) sts
- ☐ Next row: p

NECK SHAPING

NOTE: when you decrease for neck do not work lace patt in the last three sts or the first three sts of row, work these in st st

With RS facing, divide neck as follows:

- ☐ Work k24 (26, 29, 31) sts in patt,



place rem sts on holder to work second half later, turn

- ☐ P to end
- ☐ Work in Lace patt for 8 (10, 12, 8) rows dec one st at neck edge on first and every foll alt row. 20 (21, 23, 27) sts
- ☐ Work in Lace patt for 17 (17, 13, 21) rows dec one st at neck edge in first and every foll fourth row. 15 (16, 19, 21) sts
- ☐ Last two sizes only: dec one st on every foll row until 17 (18) sts rem
- ☐ Cont without shaping in lace patt until piece meas same as Back ending after a WS row
- Leave sts on a holder
- ☐ Return sts on holder back to needle and slip first st on neck edge on holder. 22 (25, 27, 30) sts
- ☐ Work in Lace patt for 8 (10, 12, 8) rows, dec one st at neck edge on first and every foll alt row. 18 (20, 21, 26) sts
- ☐ Work in Lace patt for 12 (13, 13, 21) rows dec one st at neck edge on first and every foll fourth row. 15 (16, 17, 20) sts
- ☐ Last size only: dec one st at neck edge on first and every foll row until 18 sts rem
- ☐ Cont without shaping in Lace patt until piece meas same as Back, ending after a WS row

JOINING SHOULDERS

☐ Holding Front and Back pieces tog with RS facing, cast off sts using three-needle cast off (see Knitwise)

ARMHOLE BORDERS

- ☐ Pick up and k 21 (23, 25, 27) sts evenly up one side of armhole edge to shoulder and 21 (23, 25, 27) sts down other side
- ☐ Work in moss st for 2cm

- ☐ Cast off
- ☐ Rep for other side

NECKBAND

- ☐ Using 4mm needles and with RS facing, pick up and k 28 (32, 34, 38) sts evenly down LH side of neck, k one st from holder, pick up and k28 (32, 34, 38) sts evenly up RH side of neck and 17 (20, 23, 26) sts across back of neck. 74 (85, 92, 103) sts
- ☐ K one row
- ☐ Cast off

To make up

Sew side seams and arm seams **LK**

knitwise

Three needle cast off

This is a really useful way to cast off and seam at the same time. With right sides together and needles parallel, slip a third (working) needle into the first stitch on each of the two needles. Wrap yarn around working needle as if to knit and pull a loop through. Drop the first stitch from each of the parallel needles. * Knit together the next stitch on both parallel needles. There will be two stitches on the working needle. Using one of the parallel needles, pass the first stitch on the working needle over the second stitch and off the needle as you normally would when casting off. Repeat from * until only one stitch remains on the working needle. Cut yarn leaving a tail, thread through the remaining stitch and fasten off.



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Part 23: *correcting mistakes*

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Deputy editor **Adrienne Chandler** looks at a few common beginner mistakes and shows you how to fix them

DROPPED STITCHES

In the middle of a row

This is one of the most common mistakes; even experienced knitters have been known to accidentally slip a stitch off the needle and watch with a sigh as it drops several rows. There's no need to panic though, all you need is a crochet hook. Here's how you pick up a dropped stitch on a stocking stitch fabric:

Step 1: with the right side of the work facing you, insert the crochet hook through the topmost knitted stitch from front to back



Step 2: hook the next horizontal strand and pull it back through the stitch.



Repeat Step 2 until you have picked up all the dropped stitches

For other stitch patterns, you may need to alternate between inserting the hook into the stitch from the front, or inserting it from the back, but the principle is still the same.

Sometimes you will spot a twisted stitch, a misplaced knit or purl stitch or even a hole lower down in your work, but the rest of the knitting is fine. This can be corrected by deliberately dropping the stitches in this vertical column and rebuilding the work using the method given above.

At the end of a row

Dropping stitches at the end of a row is just as easily done, but slightly more fiddly to pick up.

Step 1: with the right side of the work facing you, insert the crochet hook through the topmost knitted stitch from front to back



Step 2: tensioning the large loop slightly, hook the bottom strand of the large loop and pull it through the stitch



Step 3: keeping the hook in the stitch you have just made, hook the top strand of the large loop and pull it through the stitch



Repeat Steps 2-3 until all dropped stitches have been picked up

KNITTING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

If you have to put down your knitting in the middle of the row, you need to be able to recognise which side you were working for when you pick it up again. Remember, the yarn will be coming off the stitches on your right hand needle, so hold the other needle in your left hand and you'll be ready to knit.



SAFETY FIRST

When knitting an intricate pattern such as lace, it's helpful to use a lifeline. To do this, insert a thin length of smooth, cotton yarn through all the stitches on your needle then carry on knitting, repositioning the lifeline after a correct pattern repeat. If you make a mistake, simply remove your needle and unravel your work. The lifeline will keep your stitches from unravelling too far.



INCREASING STITCHES

If your first piece of knitting has wiggly edges and finishes a lot wider than when you started, fear not – it has happened to all of us. There are two main reasons for this. You might have accidentally wrapped the yarn around the needle before knitting the stitch.



When working rib and moss stitches for the first time, it is very easy to make extra stitches between your knit and purl stitches. When switching between stitches, make sure you take the yarn between your two needles and not over the top of a needle.



If you're not careful, it can be quite easy to insert your needle through the strand of yarn. This can make it look like there are two stitches rather than one, so work slowly and carefully.



FROGGING

This is the term for unravelling several rows of work and is so called because you, "rip it, rip it!"

Step 1: lay your work flat and carefully remove your knitting needle



Step 2: gently tug the yarn to unravel the stitches and unravel work back to the correct point



Step 3: carefully place the stitches back on the needle one at a time



Twisted stitches

These can make your knitting look uneven so make sure you are aware which way your stitch should sit.



TINKING

If you've made a mistake on the row you are working on and don't want to rip out the entire row, it is possible to undo each stitch in a method known as tinking. It is called this because you are knitting backwards – tink is the word knit spelt in reverse!

Step 1: insert the left-hand needle into the stitch below the last stitch on the right-hand needle



Step 2: slide the original stitch off the right hand needle



Step 3: gently tug the yarn to unravel the stitch



Repeat Steps 1-3 in each stitch



Knit School is sponsored by HiyaHiya needles. Find a range of double-pointed, circular and interchangeable needles in stainless steel or bamboo varieties, plus crochet hooks and accessories. This tutorial used needles from the brand's Bamboo Ultimate knitting set. Visit www.hiyahiya-europe.com/stockists for further information.



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Turn the TABLES

Keep these pages handy to guide you on your way

YARN WEIGHTS

YARN TYPE	STANDARD TENSION	STANDARD NEEDLE SIZE
Lace	30-33 sts-36-50 rows	2mm-3mm
4ply	28 sts-36 rows	3.25mm
DK	22 sts-28 rows	4mm
Aran	18 sts-24 rows	5mm
Chunky	14 sts-19 rows	6.5mm
Super Chunky	9 sts-12 rows	10mm

NEEDLE SIZING		
UK (mm)	U.S.A	Old UK/ Canada
2	0	14
2.25	1	13
2.75	2	12
3	-	11
3.25	3	10
3.5	4	-
3.75	5	9
4	6	8
4.5	7	7
5	8	6
5.5	9	5
6	10	4
6.5	10 1/2	3
7	-	2
7.5	-	1
8	11	0
9	13	00
10	15	000
12	17	-
15	-	-
16	19	-
19	35	-
20	36	-
25	50	-



TENSION HEADACHE

It's really important to knit tension square before you begin a project. Not everybody knits the same way - some knit more tightly than others - and this will affect how the stitch pattern looks and the finished size of the item. Tension squares are usually presented like this:

22 sts x 30 rows
10cm x 10cm
stocking stitch
4mm needles

To knit your tension square, cast on the instructed number of stitches, in this case 22, plus five more. Then, using the needle size and same stitch pattern given, work the instructed number of rows, plus five more. Using a ruler and taking your measurements from the centre of the square, count the number of stitches and number of rows over a 10cm square. If you have more than you should do, it means your knitting is a little tight and you may need to use larger needles. Similarly, if you have fewer stitches and rows, use smaller needles to get the correct tension.

"Using the correct size of needles for the yarn weight helps to produce a taut, neat fabric"

ABBREVIATIONS

o	no stitches, times or rows	skpo	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over
-	no stitches, times or rows for that size	sk2po	slip next stitch purlwise, knit two together, pass slipped stitch over and off needle
alt	alternate	sl 2, k1,	slip next two stitches knitwise at the same time, knit one, pass both slipped stitches over
approx	approximately	p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over and off needle
beg	beginning	sl 1	slip one stitch
C4F	(cable 4 front) slip two stitches on to cable needle, hold at front of work, k2, k2 from cable needle	sl st	slip stitch
C4B	(cable 4 back) slip two stitches onto cable needle, hold at back of work, k2, k2 from cable needle	sm	slip marker
ch	chain stitch	sp (s)	space(s)
ch sp	chain space	ssk	one by one slip the next two stitches knitwise. Put your left needle through the front loops of both slipped stitches and knit them together
cm	centimetres	st (s)	stitch (es)
cn	cable needle	st st	stocking stitch (k on RS row, p on WS row)
cont	continue (ing)	tbl	through the back loop (s)
dc	double crochet	tr	treble crochet
dc2tog	(insert hook into next stitch, yarn over hook, pull through loop) twice, yarn over hook, pull through all three loops on hook	w&t	(on knit rows) take the yarn between the needles to the front of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn (on purl rows) take the yarn between the needles to the back of the work, slip the next stitch from the Left Hand needle to the Right Hand needle purlwise, take the yarn between the needles back to its original position, slip the stitch back to the Left Hand needle and turn
dec	decrease (ing)	WS	wrong side
dpn(s)	double pointed needle(s)	wyib	with yarn in back
dtr	double treble crochet	wyif	with yarn in front
fol	following	yb	yarn back
htr	half treble crochet	yfwd	yarn forward (between knit stitches)
inc	increase (ing)	yo	work yfwd/yon/yrn as appropriate
k	knit	yoh	yarn over hook
kfb	knit into the front and the back of the next stitch	yon	yarn over needle (between a purl and a knit stitch)
k2tog	knit two stitches together	yrn	yarn round needle (between purl stitches and between a knit and a purl stitch)
kwise	knitwise	y2rn	wrap yarn twice around needle
m1	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and knitting into the back of it	*	repeat instructions following the asterisk as many times as instructed
m1p	make one stitch, by picking up the horizontal loop before next stitch and purling into the back of it	()[]	work instructions inside the brackets as many times as instructed
meas	measure (s)		
mm	millimeters		
N1 (2, 3)	needle 1 (2, 3)		
p	purl		
pb	place bead		
pfb	purl into the front and back of next st		
pm	place marker		
p2tog	purl two stitches together		
prev	previous		
pssso	pass slipped stitch over and off needle		
p2sso	pass two slipped stitches over and off needle		
pwise	purlwise		
rem	remain (ing)		
rep	repeat (ing)		
rev st st	reverse stocking stitch (p on RS row, k on WS row)		
rm	remove marker		
rnd(s)	round(s)		
RS	right side		



AT A LOOSE END?

Follow these steps for weaving in any tails of yarn:

1. Thread the yarn on to a tapestry needle and work with the WS of the project facing upwards.
2. Insert the needle under the loop of each stitch, and draw it through. Work it

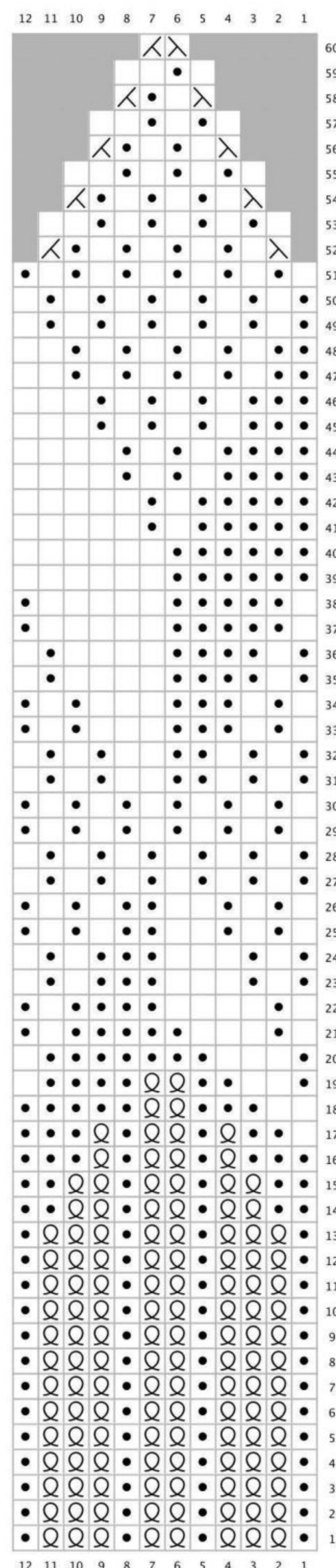
up and down the loops of the stitches for 8cm. An alternative method is to weave through the back of the stitch, splitting the strand of yarn as you sew.

3. Cut the yarn close to the fabric.
NOTE: In colourwork, weave the yarn tails into the matching colour section.

HAT CHART

Here's the Chart for Claire Devine's hat from page 61

Key			
	knit		ssk
	purl		k2tog
	grey no stitch		k tbl



Pattern UPDATES

Here at LK we try our hardest to make sure our patterns are free from errors, but sometimes they do slip through the net. Here you will find our latest pattern updates; we apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any queries about one of our patterns, please call **01206 508622** or email support@letsknit.co.uk. For further updates visit www.letsknit.co.uk

LK98, October Dress-Up (p79)

There is an error on the top. We do apologise.

After knitting two rows in yarn A, do not cast off, instead work as follows: Cut yarn A, join in yarn B

- K two rows
- Cast off

Azure Sky (p26)

The main pattern should be as follows:

- Row 1: * k2, p2, rep from * to last two sts, k2
- Row 2: * p2, k2, rep from * to last two sts, p2
- Row 3: as Row 2
- Row 4: as Row 1



Arthur & Mildred (p19)

You only need to make one piece for the Body, not two as stated.

Row 2 and all even-numbered rows should be worked as follows: LS in every st to end

SUBSTITUTION

There are many reasons to want to substitute the yarn given in a project, from price to colour selection, but there are some important points to remember.

- Choose a yarn with a similar tension to the suggested yarn. Match the tension given on the ball band of the yarns, as the pattern may use a different stitch. Remember to do a tension square in the new yarn before you begin.
- Consider the fibre content of the yarn and how this might affect the finished project. For example, cotton yarn will knit up very differently to a wool yarn.



- Don't forget to check the care instructions of your new yarn. Not all yarns are machine washable.
- Look at the meterage of the new yarn, rather than the weight of the ball. Not all 50g balls have the same meterage and you don't want to run short when nearing the end of your project.

ON THE BLOCKS

Blocking is the process of stretching and shaping your finished items to create the correct dimensions from the pattern and even out your stitches. It is also really useful for ensuring that pieces to be joined fit well together. There are a few different ways to achieve this, so check the information on the yarn ball band and pick the most suitable option.

Wet blocking: dampen the pieces so that they are wet through and gently squeeze out the excess water. Lay out the pieces and pin them to the correct measurements,

then leave them to dry. For delicate fibres and lace projects, you can just spritz the pieces with a water spray, rather than submerging them fully.

Steaming: lay a damp cloth over your work and gently iron over the top – do not iron directly on to your knitting. Continue to iron until the cloth is dry. Another option is to gently hover over your work with the iron and apply steam until the knitting relaxes, this is good for delicate projects and textured stitches. Pin to the desired measurements and allow to set.

Step-BY-Step

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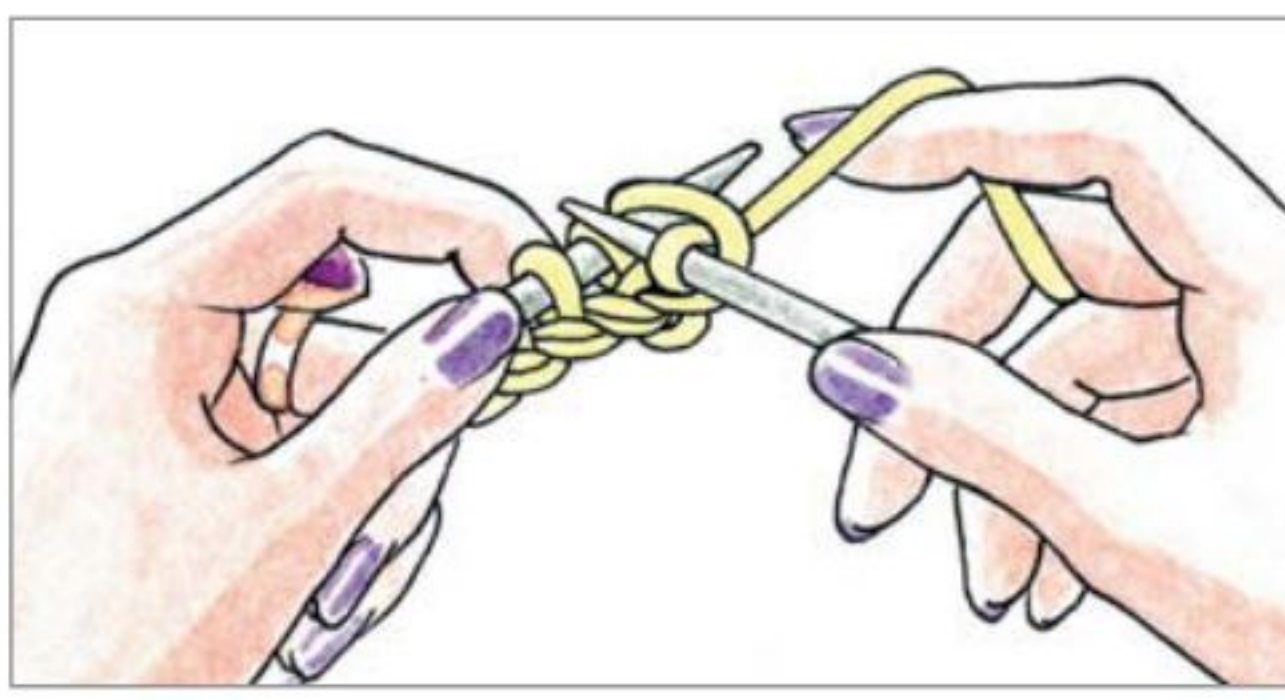


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KNIT STITCH



1 Once cast on, insert the tip of the right needle upwards and from front to back into the top stitch on the left needle. The right hand needle should sit behind the left hand one. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the tip of the right hand needle.



2 Using the right hand needle, pull a loop of the wrapped yarn through the original stitch to create a new one on the right hand needle. Slide the original stitch off the left hand needle. Repeat from step one. You are now knitting! The knit stitch can be combined with other stitches to create hundreds of different stitch patterns.

HELPING HAND

If you need a refresher on basic knitting techniques, visit our website www.letsknit.co.uk.

You'll also find the following step-by-step instructions in the magazine:

Picking up stitches on a selvedge, p26

Correcting mistakes, p89

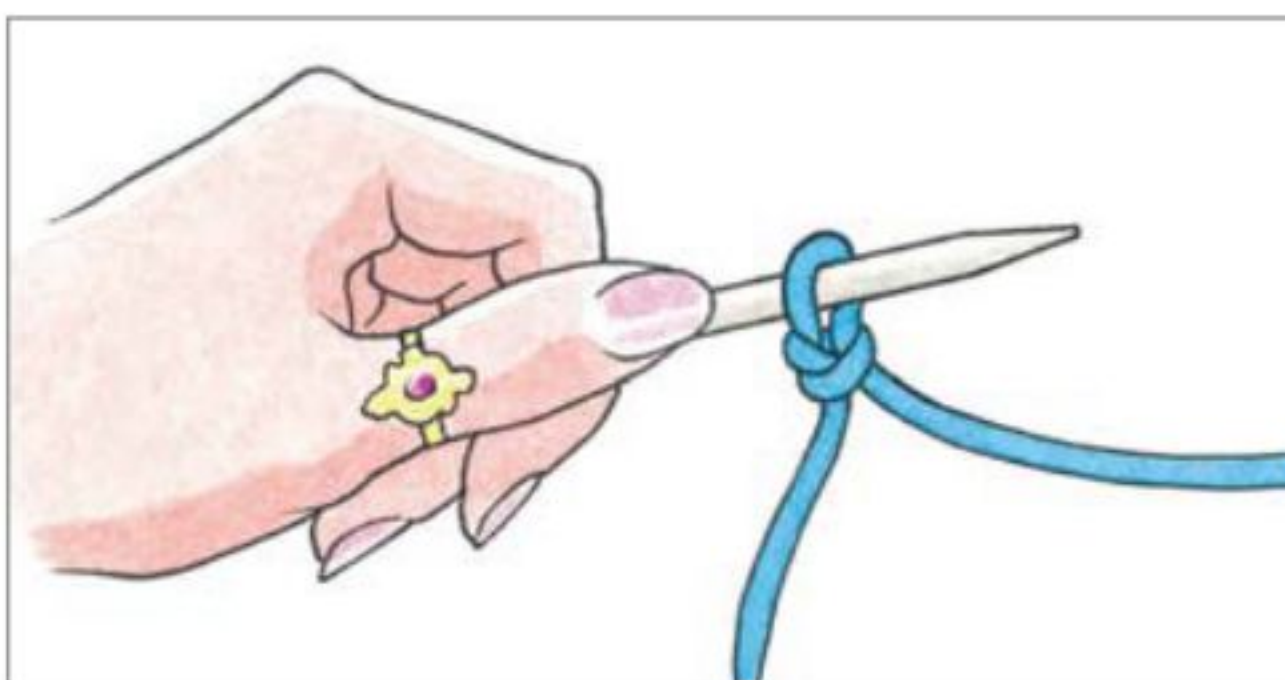


p26

MAKING A SLIP KNOT



1 Holding the yarn under your left thumb, wrap it twice around your left index and middle fingers, with the second loop closer to the base of the fingers. With the backs of the fingers uppermost, insert the tip of the needle beneath the first loop and over the second, and pull the second loop under the first.



2 Remove the two fingers and gently tug on both ends of yarn to tighten the slip knot around the needle.

GRAFT THE TOE



Kitchener Stitch is the method used to achieve this. It is worked as follows:

SET UP: Before starting you need to prepare the stitches on the needle. Hold the two needles with the remaining stitches parallel. The loose end of yarn should be coming from the back needle and lying to the right of the work.

1 Thread yarn end onto a tapestry needle and insert it purlwise into the first stitch on the needle closest to you. Pull the yarn through but leave the stitch on the needle.



2 Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the back needle and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.



3 Having set up as shown in steps 1 and 2, repeat steps 3 and 4 until all stitches have been grafted. Insert the tapestry needle knitwise into the first stitch on the front needle and slide the stitch off. Before you pull the yarn through this stitch insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the front needle purlwise and pull the yarn through, this time leaving the stitch on the needle.



4 Insert the tapestry needle purlwise into the first stitch on the back needle and slide it off. Before pulling the yarn through this stitch, insert the tapestry needle into the next stitch on the back needle knitwise and pull the yarn through, leaving the stitch on the needle.

CABLE CAST ON



1 Create a slipknot on your left hand needle, pulling it taut (but not too tight). Carefully insert the right needle into the knot from front to back, passing under the left hand needle. Wrap the ball end of yarn anticlockwise around the point of the right needle.



2 Pull the loop that forms back through the original stitch (knot) and insert the tip of the left hand needle into the new stitch from underneath to transfer it from the right hand to the left hand needle. There should now be two stitches on the left hand needle.



3 Insert the right needle between the two stitches on the left needle and wrap the yarn around the needle tip anticlockwise. Draw this loop through to make a stitch and slip it up and onto the left needle. Repeat this creating a new loop behind the last stitch and passing it left needle in front of the previous one.

BACK STITCH

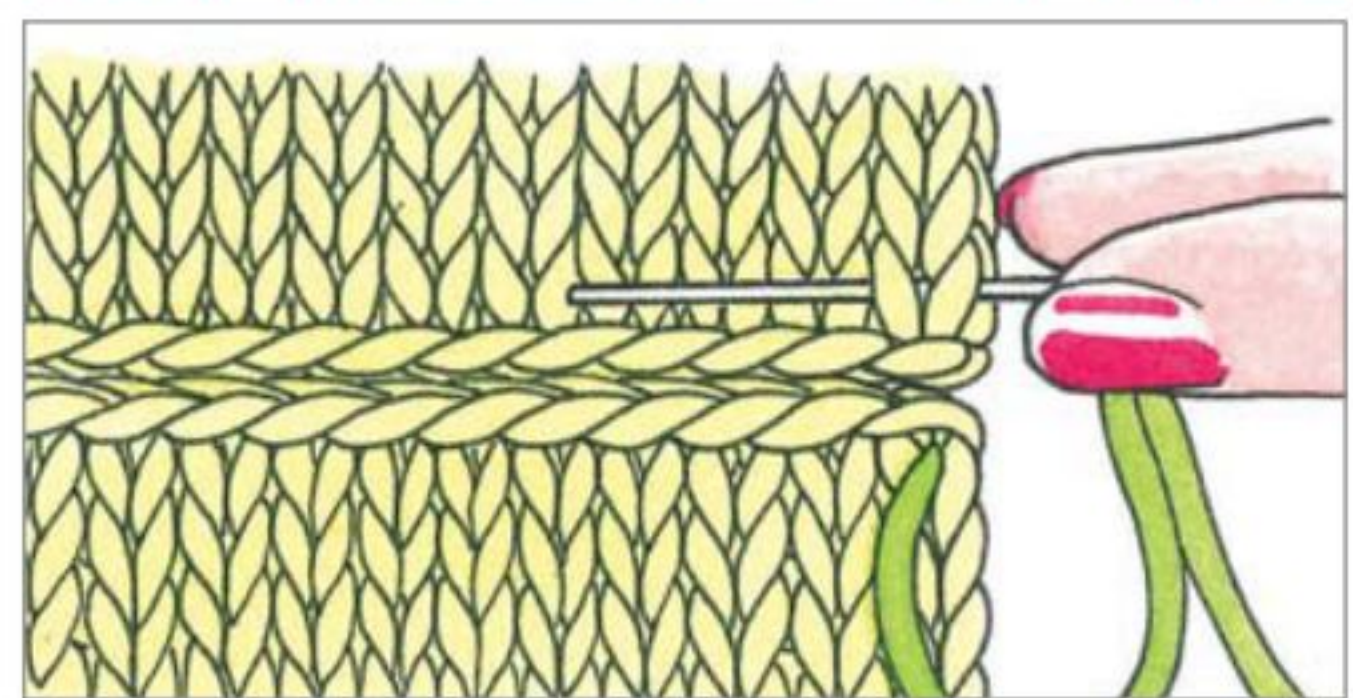


1 Pin the pieces to be joined, with the right sides together. Thread the loose end of yarn onto a tapestry needle. Start by stitching the two outer edges together, then bring the needle through the two pieces 1cm from back to front ahead of the previous stitch.

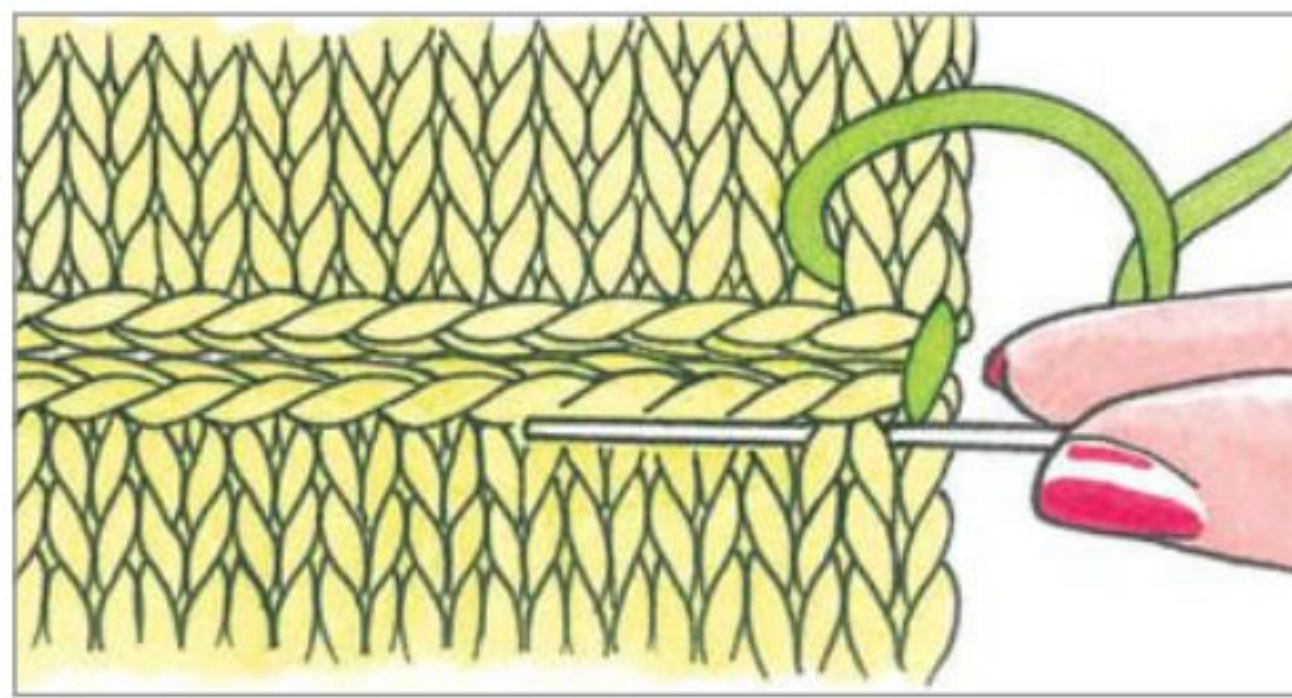


2 Push the needle back through at the position where the yarn emerged from the previous stitch. Return it to the front of the work, approx 1cm ahead of the stitch just made. Repeat this until the whole join is complete, working in a straight line.

JOINING CAST OFF EDGES

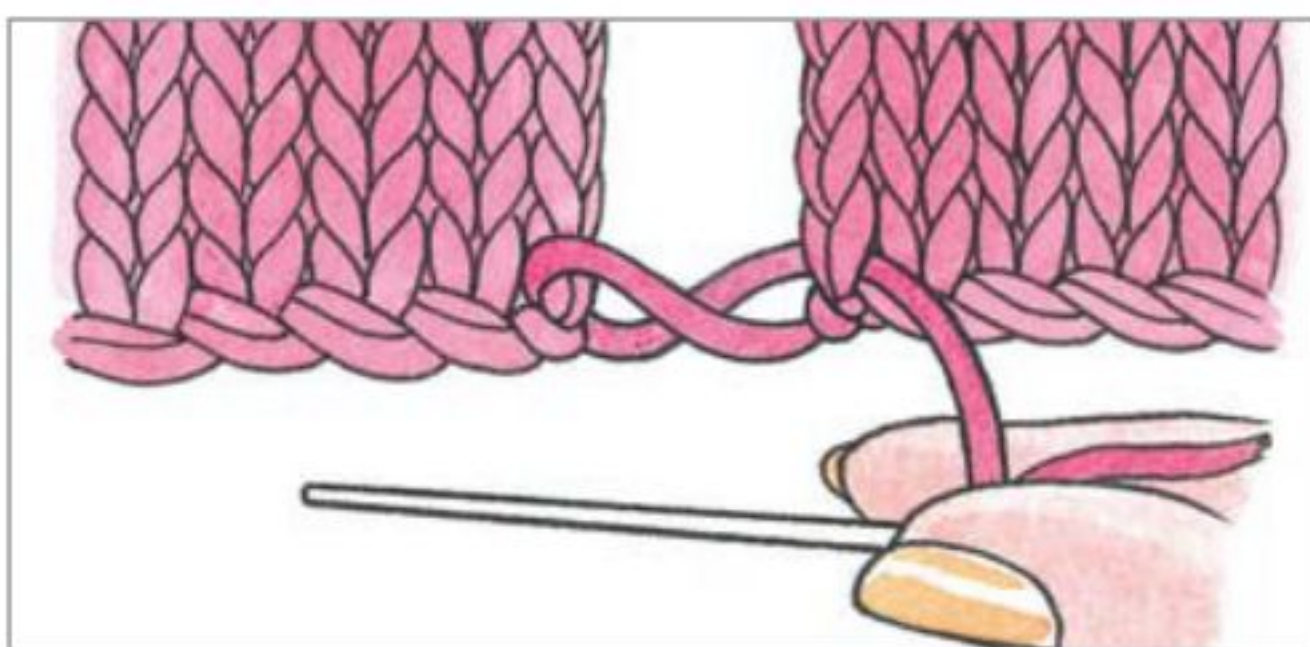


1 Lay the two pieces to be joined right side up and with the cast off edges touching. Thread a tapestry needle with the loose yarn and push this through the centre of the first stitch, and then in and out through the centres of two stitches on the opposite side.



2 Take the needle over to the first side and insert where it previously exited, bringing it out through the centre of the next stitch. Repeat this process alternating sides and stitching single stitches until the pieces are joined.

BEGINNING A SEAM



1 With the pieces placed next to each other with right side upwards, thread the yarn tail through the fabric after the first stitch, moving the needle from front to back. Then, take the needle behind the first stitch on the second piece from the back of the work to the front. The yarn will form a figure 8. Tug gently to secure.

MATTRESS STITCH



1 With the two pieces to be joined lying next to each other, hook the horizontal bar of the first stitch with the tapestry needle. Move to the other piece and hook the first horizontal bar of the stitch on that side.
2 Repeat this moving from one piece to the next and pulling the yarn to tighten the join.

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Creative Insider...

with Shelby Donoghue owner of Twisted Stitches

What exciting yarns and patterns do you have at Twisted Stitches?

I think all Twisted Stitches yarns are exciting! They all have something special about them. I love the Garthenor Organic range, how each shade comes from a different breed of sheep, so has a different feel and handle and to that end is used for different projects. This one really connects you to the sheep happily grazing away on a hillside. The handspun yarns are a real labour of love - every inch has been drawn through my very own fingertips. It is so therapeutic, being at one with something so close to nature and the gentle rock is very meditative. Unfortunately a lot of these end up in my personal stash, I really should learn not to keep them as pets!

How does Twisted Stitches differ from other online retailers?

With Twisted Stitches, we never wanted to compete with the large online sites, selling the branded favourites we stock in Topwools (our bricks and mortar shop in Barnsley). There is only myself running the website and keeping it up to date with every yarn in our shop was an impossible task. I am very passionate about supporting the British wool industry, so we decided on sourcing British yarns from small farms and mills. Then of course I view the hand dyed yarns as miniature works of art. There has been much time pondering and experimenting with colour blending and dye placement. A little wooly Jackson Pollock!

Could you tell us a little more about your own hand dyed range?

Twisted Stitches hand dyed range evolved from my kitchen sink experiments.

When we started TS, we stocked only natural undyed yarns, I hand dyed a few skeins for a personal project and ideas and inspiration came flooding in. and my lovely customers snapped them up. I live in a stunning part of the world, within walking distance to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and ten minutes drive to the Yorkshire moors, so the



colour and scenery plays a massive part in my work. Each yarn has a colour story, so most have quite evocative, narrative local names which hopefully ring true to many a Yorkshire knitter.

How is the site helping raise money for the Aspire Charity?

I came across Aspire (a spinal injuries charity) as they organise English Channel relay teams each year as part of their fundraising. I love open water swimming so was keen to take part and fundraise for such an important charity, as my mother-in-law was left in a wheelchair after a massive stroke five years ago. Open water swimming in this country often means being cold, so I put my love of knitting to good use and started knitting hats to sell to my fellow swimmers as part of my fundraising. The swimming community is generous and close knit (pardon the pun). The hats have been going to homes across the globe, some even to National standard swimmers. Plus knitting seems to work the very muscles needed for swimming, so through the hundreds of hats knitted, I've developed some quite impressive shoulders too! Even though the swim has now been swum (16 hours 40 minutes in case you're wondering) we still have a page on the Twisted Stitches website where you can choose your hat. I am still happily knitting and selling the hats for Aspire and cold headed people the world over.

Looking forward, what is on the horizon for Twisted Stitches?

Sorting out the garage so I can set up a dye studio in there, pretty soon - or divorce! I would love to have the space and time to do more dyeing and spinning, to create enough stock to start attending some of the large wool fairs. I would love to work with local farmers and mills to develop my own range of base stock to dye, having a very tight supply chain, that would be a dream.

To find out more and see the full range of products, please visit

www.twistedstitches.co.uk



“If you have just one subject you are into, try crocheting it”

We're feeling festive with crochet designer and author of a new Christmas-themed book, **Mitsuki Hoshi**



We love cute amigurumi characters and few are more adorable than those made by Japanese designer Mitsuki Hoshi. One of her latest books is a fabulous crocheted representation of Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem, *A Visit From St Nicholas*, more commonly known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. It includes patterns for all the main players, plus some charming extras, that are sure to have you bursting with seasonal cheer. We chat to Mitsuki about how she got started as a crochet designer and what inspires her projects.

I didn't know anything about amigurumi until I found a Mickey Mouse crochet kit in a craft shop.

I was 24 then and Mickey Mouse has been my hero since my childhood, so I bought the kit. I didn't know how to read the crochet chart either, so I went to the local library and borrowed a reference book to understand the very basic crochet techniques.

After completing my first Mickey Mouse, I decided to make a living as an amigurumi artist.

To become a professional artist, you need to create something unique, so that readers can identify your work from others. I think the uniqueness in my work is in its cuteness and the modified shapes and expressions. The degree of this modification could not be achieved through the existing patterns, so I started to design my own.

My favourite place to crochet is at home, listening to my favourite music.

I always start my creation by observing actual objects, trying to capture the most adorable feature of the subject. I also search for photographs of stuffed toys and animals to learn the standard body structure. These give me hints or inspiration for my modifications.

I would remind budding designers that I started my career from scratch. All the



necessary skills and experiences are completely self-taught. If you have just one subject you are into, then try crocheting it. The subject itself can work as a good motivation, and crocheting tools are not expensive. I love to make dogs as I had pet dogs when I was a child. I suggest you look around and find your favorite subject that you want to portray. The rest should be easy.

Sometimes the colours of yarns can fade in storage so I found a solution to protect them.

I put the balls of yarn into zip-lock plastic bags, sorting them by colour, then stash them in several boxes. This way the colours are always bright, and yarns are easy to pick up when I need them.

It is exciting that I'll be able to see my books in store soon.

The Night Before Christmas in Crochet includes the re-told story from the classic book by Clement Moore. It includes step-by-step photographs to

create the reindeer, as well as crochet charts to make other items, such as Santa Claus, a cat and Christmas ornaments. My other new book is called *Sparkling Amigurumi*, where I made all the characters with glittery lamé yarns. The yarn gives the pieces a mature yet festive touch, which you can turn into accessories for your special occasion.

See more of Mitsuki Hoshi's fabulous crochet creations on www.ravelry.com

Mitsuki's latest book *The Night Before Christmas in Crochet* is priced £7.99, and another recent title, *Sparkling Crochet*, is available for £8.99. Both are published by Harper Design, an imprint of HarperCollins. Find out more at www.harpercollins.co.uk



TOP YARNS

Mitsuki talks about her yarn stash

1 I keep using the 100% acrylic yarns from Japanese brand, Hamanaka, in particular Hamanaka Piccolo and Hamanaka Bonny. I keep a good stock of black, white, brown, grey, and earth colours, as the majority of my characters are animals.

2 I love Percent 1/100, from Japanese brand RichMore. This series contains 100 colourways and looks very attractive.

3 The most recent addition to my stash is a yarn called Suspense More from RichMore. I used it to make all of the characters for my latest book, *Sparkling Crochet*.

coming next issue

We catch up with designer Sara Kay Hartmann. November issue of *Let's Knit* on sale Friday 30th October





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